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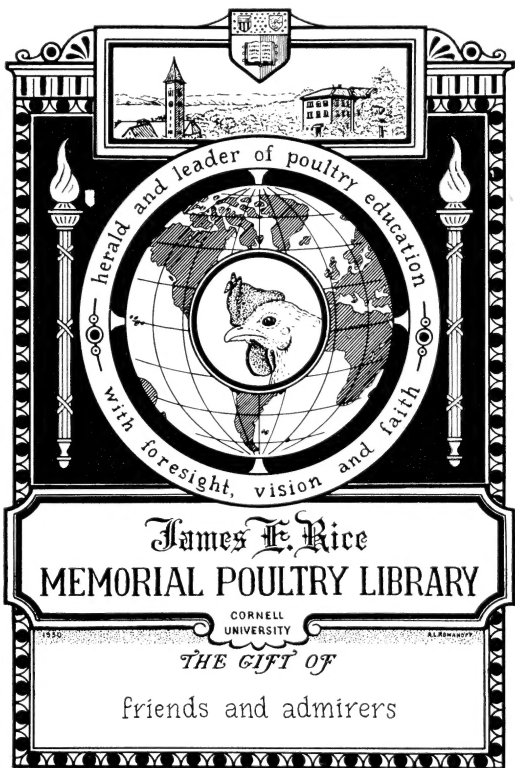
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BREEDERS' AND COCKERS'
GUIDE.

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THE
BREEDERS' AND COCKERS'
GUIDE.

A FULL AND COMPLETE TREATISE
ON RAISING GAME FOWL.

FULL INSTRUCTIONS IN EVERY DETAIL THAT PERTAIN TO FOWLS. HOW TO PREVENT DISEASE, AND CURES FOR ALL AILMENTS THAT THE FOWL IS HEIR TO.

BY HENRY FLOCK,
KANSAS CITY, MO.

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1889.
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INTRODUCTORY.

The game fowl is at present and has long been a favorite, if not the most admired breed of all domestic fowls. The natural result has been the development of a great number of varieties. The game cock is the undisputed king of all poultry, requiring more careful judging than any other bird. There are two varieties of game fowl: one for the pit and one for exhibition. To breed pure game fowl one must prevent promiscuous intercourse among other fowls of different varieties, even out of breeding season, for one single intercourse between adverse varieties may contaminate the germs, or ova, for the whole lifetime of the fowl. The evidences of this mysterious influence are more striking when fowls of opposite colors have been bred together. Dunglison, in his "Physiology," page 436, Vol. II., says it has been affirmed that the human female, when twice married, occasionally bears children to the second husband, which resemble the first, both in bodily structure and mental power. The same distinguished author says that, in the common fowl a single access of the cock is ample to fecundate the ova for the whole season, and hence it follows that the daily intercourse of the cock is not only unnecessary but pernicious, and that the chicks would be more vigorous if the intercourse

was occasional than otherwise. That the germ first fecundated is not the first to assume complete development, assimilate to itself a shell, and demand expulsion from its prison house, is rational, for the following reason: A hen may be mated to a dark colored cock during the month of April; in May she may be mated to a white one, and immediately upon laying her eggs may yield chicks from the white cock; in July she may throw chicks from the dark of her April intercourse, proving thereby that the period of incubation from the date of fecundation is both irregular and uncertain, and governed by no rules that we can comprehend. The chief features of the breed are its proud and majestic carriage and its courageous disposition. In these respects it has no peer. It is in many ways valuable apart from these fighting qualities, that have given it a name. The flesh is surpassed by no other species of fowl, the chickens are generally very hardy and easy to rear, the hens are first-rate layers and remarkably quiet and steady setters, showing, moreover, their blood in their disposition to do effective battle with rats, hawks and other enemies of their eggs or their young brood. So, whatever be the purpose of the breeder, it is worth his while to patronize Games.

HISTORY OF THE GAME COCK.

The game cock is probably a native of India, though for many centuries established in England. No doubt can be entertained that these birds were well known over many parts of Europe and Asia for several hundred years before the Christian era. When Themistocles took the field to combat with the Persians, he saw, it is said, two cocks fighting each other, and hence he alluded, while haranguing his troops, to the invincible courage of these birds. "Observe," he said of the cock, "with what intrepid valor he fights, inspired by no other motive than the love of victory, whereas you have to contend for your religion and your liberty, for your wives and children, and for the tombs of your ancestors." Nor was this appeal uttered in vain. The Athenians achieved on this occasion one of the most memorable victories emblazoned on their annals.

THE ORIGIN OF THE COCK AS A BIRD OF VICTORY.

One of the notable incidents of the war of 1812 was the crowing of the cock on Mac-

donough's flag ship Saratoga. A shot from the enemy's ship Linnet demolished a chicken coop on the Saratoga, freeing a young game cock. The released bird flew upon a gun slide, and, clapping his wings, crowed lustily and defiantly. The sailors cheered, their courage was strengthened, and thinking this action of the bird was ominous of success for the Americans, they fought bravely and won the victory.

TREATMENT OF FOWLS IN GENERAL.

You will find that if you feed and house your fowls properly you won't have any disease break out among them. Most all of the diseases are brought on by carelessness. If any of your fowls shows signs of sickness, pick it up at once, and don't wait until the whole yard has been contaminated. Put it away from the rest and treat it for its sickness. If it is anything serious, it is best to kill it at once and bury it. It is not much use fooling with sick chickens, especially if the disease is contagious. It is very unprofitable to keep a lot of sick chickens. Give your fowls good runs, where they can get grass. Cook vegetables and

mix meal and cayenne pepper when you feed them on winter mornings. Feed it hot. Throw in a handful of charcoal twice a week, and if your fowls are confined give them greens. Lettuce is good. Cabbage, chopped fine, with a little salt sprinkled over it, is excellent. Chopped apple is good. Feed your fowls varieties of food. Feed grain at night. Feed them twice a day—mash in the morning and corn at night. The chicks you have to feed oftener. Mix their feed with milk, if you have cows. Keep their stable clean, and throw in slacked lime and sulphur about the hen house. Whitewash the inside of your hen house. Have the stable warm, no fires, no draught; see that there is no water under the floor; don't let the droppings accumulate; have the floor dry. If the weather is stormy or the ground is frozen, or snow on the ground, and the weather is such that they cannot be let out, then throw into them dried leaves, hay leaves, or corn fodder. They will strip the leaves off the stalk very readily. Scatter corn or small grain among the leaves, so they will be busy scratching. Don't have too many in one yard. If the fowls shows signs of sickness change the food, feed boiled rice, with a handful of pepper thrown in; oatmeal and milk is splendid. Barley meal,

fresh meat, chopped fine, is also good. Potatoes boiled and mixed with corn meal or any kind of meal is good for fattening. Indian corn, ground into meal, and mixed with boiled vegetables and a little chopped beef or such is good, and will fatten fowls very fast. Don't give feed in a sloppy state; don't feed this to your laying hens too often or it will make them too fat. If a hen develops interior fat, it is fatal to her constant laying. When feeding the fowls and you see the chickens begin to pick daintily, remove the food—in other words don't throw any more to them than they will eat—don't waste the food. There is a great deal of harm done in over-feeding, especially by the inexperienced. Fresh water should be given every day. Young chicks should not be let out too early in the morning while the dew is on the grass. The coop should be changed quite often, never allowing it to stand on wet ground, always keeping it in a dry place. Wet soil is sure to bring on fatal sickness.

The water for the little chicks should be boiled first or they are apt to get diarrhea. Be sure in feeding soft food that the food is in a crumbly state. Skimmed milk is good in place of water for little chicks at first. The young fowls don't want to be stinted in food.

Wheat is good for the fowls at all times. When chicks begin to feather, the greatest care should be taken of them. A little iron in their water at times is good. Hemp seed is good for them, malt is also a good thing for fowls; it helps the young chicks to feather, and is splendid for laying hens, but not too much of it. Cooked food is nutritious and readily digested. If you want your hens to lay, you must have a warm, dry stable for them and feed them hot food in the morning; and if fowls are treated this way they will lay in the coldest weather. It is necessary for the fowls to have small gravel, pounded oyster shells and ground bones scattered about. You must cater to your chickens' wants if you expect to get any returns, and if they are properly attended to, you won't have any diseases break out among your fowls. Use plenty of greens, such as cabbages, onions, apples, lettuce; boil potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips and mix with meal, and feed hot; feed with black pepper and throw in a few handful of fine charcoal occasionally. Give fresh water, and, with a clean hen house and a good range, you need never fear disease.

MATING AND BREEDING.

Here is where the breeder is at fault. Here is where the successful breeder lays his foundation, in mating. This requires judgment and study. The careful breeder looks for constitution and gameness first. When he has these two important qualities then he has laid the foundation of his success in raising healthy chickens. A careful breeder will avoid breeding in-and-in. A great many fine strains have been utterly run out of all the qualities which made them successful, and through this mistake on the part of the breeder. Breeding-in causes loss of size, weakens the bones and muscles, and loss of gameness: it weakens the constitution. A breeder should always infuse new blood; it strengthens your fowl in every particular—size, bone, health, gameness and constitution. When the fowl is bred-in it causes the hens to lay less eggs, they moult and feather late, and go on badly, and are an easy prey to diseases. Breeding close, even, is productive of more delicacy of constitution than most breeders are aware of. Breeding from too young a cock will cause weak chickens. Breeding from pullets too

young will do the same. All breeding stock should be fully grown. If you breed a stag he should have age. Put him on old hens, never pullets. Put pullets with an old cock. It is more dangerous to cross brother and sister than it is offspring and parent. Should your chickens be robust and vigorous, and you breed brother and sister, you will find that they will show signs of debility in their movements. After the first in-breeding, in-bred chicks are hard to raise, can not stand any sickness, and are more liable to take sick than the chicks that have a new infusion of blood in them. By a new cross they will be hardy and can stand a great deal.

The number of hens apportioned to a cock must vary with the surroundings. If the fowls are given abundant range, so that the requirements of nature in respect to exercise are complied with, their vigor will be such that from eight to ten will not be too many for one cock. When confined in a small yard, with no special provisions for exercise, half that number is sufficient. If a cock is very alert, care should be taken to allow him hens enough, so that he may not worry them or injure them by too frequent attention. It is not necessary to have the cock with the hens every day. Some claim

that if the cock did not have intercourse with the hens every day the chicks would be more vigorous. One man says he bought two hens and had no cock, and there were no cocks near his place. The hens laid fifteen eggs in seventeen days. He set one hen on the fifteen eggs and the result surprised him. She hatched out twelve chicks; three eggs did not hatch. He broke open the three eggs and found three dead chicks, showing they had been impregnated, showing thereby the access of the cock is not constantly necessary. Never, under any circumstances, let a dunghill cock have access to your hens. If early chickens are wanted, the mating should be arranged by the end of November. Hens and pullets about a month after their moulting will begin to lay. When once mated the yard should not be disturbed. Pullets to be bred from should not be used until they are eight months old. They can be mated sooner, but it is not advisable. Their chicks will be weak. Their chicks would be stronger if they were ten or twelve months old. Pullets should be separated at about four months. A Game hen mated to a dunghill cock will raise pretty good fighters, but if a good Game cock is put with a dunghill hen they won't amount to much. The first eggs

from a young hen mated with a stag will not be worth much, even if they can be raised. They usually die when from six to fifteen days old. A strong stag put with three year old hens make strong healthy fowls. If the cock is faulty don't breed from him if it can be avoided. The fowl should be mated about the first of February, unless early chickens are wanted. If a cock takes a dislike to a hen, take her away, for she won't do any more good with him; besides, he is liable to hurt her.

SETTING A HEN AND RAISING CHICKS.

In setting a hen it is best not to give her over eleven eggs to cover. She is liable to break them. If she breaks any, the nest gets foul, and makes a nasty mess. The best way is to put her on her new nest at night, and at first either put China eggs under her or some real eggs that you do not want to hatch, and after one or two days remove those eggs and give her the eggs you want her to hatch. In first setting a hen they are very restless for about twenty-four hours, and are liable to break the eggs.

In setting a hen it is not best to take the

largest hens you can find for setting hens. Some take the big Shanghai, thinking she can cover the most eggs. The middle-sized Game hen makes the best setting hen; takes care of her chicks better; more active, more life. Don't set the hen in the stable where the rest of the chickens roost, and when you do set her, don't put her into a barrel where she has to fly up to get out and fly down on her eggs when she goes back. She disturbs her eggs in getting out and also jumps on them getting back, and is liable to break every egg. Use boxes and make the nests of soil, and line the edges with fine straw. Always use soil for nests, and don't fail to see if she has any lice. If she has, grease her stern and under the wings with sweet oil, mixed with oil of sassafras, but before greasing cut the feathers from the stern, also sprinkle the nest with a solution of potash or sulphur, and you will find you won't be troubled with lice. Give her plenty of ventilation and light. A hen allowed to make her own nest in a hedge always brings out a much larger, stronger and healthier brood than one that sits in the dry, close atmosphere of a hen house. When hatched the chickens should not be removed for twenty-four hours, feeding not being required, nature providing for that. The

first food should be egg and milk, equal parts beaten together and heated to a soft mass. This may be given with a little canary seed for the first day or two, or millet or wheat. Newly ground sweet oat meal is good, but pungent, rancid meal is very injurious. A great many men and most all the women give the little chicks bread, and you can't make a woman believe otherwise but that water-soaked bread is good food for the little chickens. Nothing in the world is worse. You feed your chicks wet bread and in a short time you will see them have a watery passage and they will begin to droop. Then you will say, "My young chicks have the cholera or diarrhea; what is good for them? I must give them some medicine or I shall lose them all." You keep on throwing out bread and your chicks keep on drooping and finally they all die off and you will say you had bad luck with your chickens, when in fact you killed them yourself. Wet bread acts on a fowl like croton oil, and if it must be fed, mix meal of some kind with it. After the chicks are a week old, boil vegetables, potatoes, cabbage, any kind of vegetables, mix with fine meal, (if corn meal, boil it and mix with vegetables after), and throw in a handful of pepper. A few handfuls of

powdered charcoal should be mixed about twice a week. Don't feed grain for a few days, and when you do feed it, give small grain at night, but always feed soft, warm vegetable food in the morning. At times you will see your chickens droop and die off without any apparent reason. Catch the chick and examine its head and you will find three or four large lice eating into its brain. Lice kill a large per cent. of your chicks and a great many breeders don't know what ails them. If you see one ailing, don't wait until it is nearly dead but pick it up at once, for two lice will kill one chick. If you feed this way and you don't have too many chickens together, you will find you won't have many sick chickens. Don't give your fowls any stagnant water, especially the young ones. Put a vessel of water in the yard and throw in a handful of rusty nails. Put in fresh water every morning but let the nails be there three or four times a week. The best way to set the hens is to keep them in separate coops if it can be done. They are liable to make mistakes.

The chickens do much better when the hen is allowed to scratch for them than when she is shut up in a coop. If a coop must be used, it should be so constructed as to include a plot of grass and be moved

daily. Perches in a hen house should be on a level, or the fowls fight for the highest place; all should be low, so that in flying down, their breast bone and feet may not be injured by coming violently in contact with the ground. Keeping fowls without an extended range in which they can obtain a large portion of their food, is not good policy. They won't thrive. In all cases in which a large number of fowls are congregated together, the ground becomes contaminated by the excrement of the fowl, the food is eaten off the soiled surface, disease breaks out among them and rearing chickens successfully is out of the question. There is no difficulty whatever in hatching any number of chickens, but when the young fowls are crowded together and are living on tainted soil, they invariably become diseased and die with great rapidity. It is best to distribute your fowls on different yards. The danger won't be so great of losing them all. In keeping your hen house disinfected and free from lice, and proper feeding, you will do a great deal towards keeping the disease away from your fowls. Feed the fowls vegetables and corn meal. A hot mash every morning through the winter and corn at night, and keep them in the stable (a warm one) your hens will lay eggs all winter.

Keep lime scattered about. Powdered oyster shells are good. Use powdered charcoal with mash twice a week. Don't give the hen too many eggs, eleven eggs are sufficient; some only give nine or ten. Do not let your young chicks roost too early, if you can help it. If you have plenty of straw in the stable it is better for the chicks to be huddled together. They keep themselves warm and they get stronger.

After a hen hatches out a brood of chicks do not immediately set her again; that is too much for a hen, unless she is very strong, and it is liable to kill her.

BROOD COCKS.

A first-class brood cock, perfect in every particular, is a very rare fowl. Some breeders are under the impression that almost any kind of a cock will make a good brood cock, so long as he is game and has the size, and it is curious to see old breeders that have been raising cocks for years under that belief. They keep right on raising, year after year, a lot of inferior fowls, and they can't see how others that have not been in the business half the time away out-class them in fighting cocks. The chances

are if you gave one of these breeders a first-class brood cock, they would coop him up, and put down something that suited his fancy. The trouble with the majority of the breeders is, they don't know what a fighting cock is. They hardly ever go to a cock fight, and some never; then how can they tell a fighting cock? They can't tell a cock's fighting qualities by seeing him running around a barn-yard, or by covering hens; and unless a breeder goes to the fights he can't tell what he has, or what anybody else has. The only way he has of knowing is what somebody else tells him, and they are as liable to tell him wrong as they are right, for the man that tells him may not know any more than the breeder, and probably not as much. Such a man may have game cocks, but he has no fighting game cocks, and he won't have game cocks long if he listens and takes advice of every one he happens to know in the chicken business and doesn't go near the fights himself. A successful breeder must have a mind of his own; must know how to mate properly; must use judgment; must go to the cock fights and see his cocks fight, and there is the place, if there is anything lacking in the fighting qualities of his cocks, to see the defects, and not in the barn yard,

covering hens. If he is a careful cocker, and sees some defects in the fighting qualities of his fowls, he knows from his own personal knowledge what ails them, and where he can improve, and goes and does it. It is not by writing to a stranger whom he knows nothing of to send him a brood cock, and when he arrives puts him right amongst his choice hens; and besides, if he had not seen the cock fight he would not have known the cock lacked in fighting qualities, and perhaps some friend of his that was at the fight might have told him that the cock was O. K., not knowing any better, and if he did know better perhaps did not want to offend him, therefore a breeder should always see his cocks fight and then he won't have to take anybody's word. Some breeders take a couple of stags or cocks and put on the gaffs and fight them at home, until one or the other is dead; if either dies game, he is satisfied he has game fowl. He never thinks about the fighting qualities, and probably is not experienced enough to judge for himself. He knows they are game, for he tried them, and he thinks that is all that is necessary, and goes on breeding in-and-in, year after year, until no one will buy his cocks, and then he will begin to think that the cockers are not favorably disposed to-

wards him. That he has no fighting cocks never enters his mind. The country to-day is flooded with inferior game cocks; and what is the cause of it? The cause of it is that the breeders don't know their business. They keep on breeding year after year, breeding in-and-in, and breeding from something they know nothing about, that some friend of his had sent him, and probably his friend knew less than he did. There is no reason why one man should not have as good cocks as another. To breed of inferior cocks, take a cock, let him be game as game can be, and pay no attention to his other qualities. You raise one hundred stags, put them out on walks, and say you get them all back in fine shape. Out of that one hundred cocks you might pick ten or fifteen first-class fighting cocks; the balance would be inferior and couldn't fight, and that is the trouble with a great many breeders. There is no reason why you can't raise one hundred stags, and when you get them back you have one hundred fighters. (I don't mean to say that you can put out one hundred stags and get them all back—that can't be done.) It does not cost any more to raise a good fighting cock than it does a poor one, and if you go to raising cocks, you want the best, no matter how many you raise. If

you don't raise but one, he should be a fighter; if you raise twenty, there should be twenty fighters; no inferior ones. Some breeders will say that can't be done. It can be done just as easily as raising inferior ones. It all depends on the kind of stock you start with.

A brood cock requires very careful judging, and it takes a cocker or an old breeder to see all the fine qualities in a fighting cock. It is astonishing to see how few cockers and breeders are able to judge a cock. Some who have been at the business for years know less than those who have been at the business only a year or two. A first-class brood cock must have good constitution and bone, must have vim, must have speed and be a leg fighter, must have action, should be broad across the back and well stationed, sound as a dollar and have no deformed feet, and should weigh from five pounds eight ounces to six pounds six ounces. I would not breed from a cock over six pounds six ounces: they get overgrown, and are not of much use. A great many breeders don't know what constitution means. It means health, strength, vitality, soundness in body. It imparts strength to the chicks. Chicks from a brood cock that has a good constitution can stand a great deal of rough usage.

They get hardy, and are reared without trouble. From a constitutionally weak cock you get a lot of sickly, puny chicks, hard to raise, and, after they are raised and become cocks, they won't stand cooping or cutting, and won't recuperate after being cut, while cocks that receive twice as much cutting will get well in a few days. Constitution tells in raising the young, it tells in the pit and it tells on a cock after he has fought, and becomes stiff and sore. If you have constitution, you have life, strength and recuperating power. A fighting cock cannot afford to be without it: it is the most important part. If you once have that in your fowl, then you have a foundation to start on, and you can improve his fighting qualities. What good is a game cock, even if he is ever so good a fighter, if he has no strength? If he receives a pretty bad cutting, he is gone. Why? Because he was weak and did not have strength before he received any cutting, and after being cut he is weakened still more, and there is no chance for him to recuperate, because the most important part about him is gone—his foundation; it was weak at the start, and it only took a few blows to knock it from under him entirely, and he weakens at a time when he should strengthen. He may have all other quali-

ities that are necessary for a fighting cock, but he hasn't got constitution, and therefore he has no recuperating power. Constitution is not put into a cock by going through the process of conditioning. It is reserve power—pure blood, vigor, health and vitality. It is bred in them; it is life itself.

The first requirement for the breeder is to get gameness and constitution; then speed, cutting qualities and action. You may look a long while before you find a single cock that has all these qualifications. They are not always possessed by a single cock, by any means, and are not attained in one or two years, either. It takes time and study and good judgment. The trouble with a great many breeders is, they never give a thought to such things as action or cutting qualities. A cock may be speedy, and make lots of fuss, but do no execution; but the breeder can't see it. Action is a great trait in a cock, and so few cocks have it, because the breeder never gives such things a thought. What is action? It is this: When some cocks strike a blow and go over the other cock, it will take him the entire pit to turn around in, and he will have to straighten out before he can strike again. While he is turning or straightening out, the

other cock is upon him, and has him nearly finished, or so badly crippled that he can't win. I would not breed from such a cock, no matter how game he is. Now take a good actioned cock, and in going over he hits, and the instant he strikes the ground he turns, and strikes in turning; he will turn instantly and strike without waiting to take a bill hold. A good actioned cock will strike in any position, no matter how he is placed; they fight in every move they make. I have seen cocks with wonderful action in the pit, and they do some great fighting. Any number of breeders were present who could not see anything about them that their cocks didn't have, when in fact the cock laid as much over their cocks as a good dollar does over a bad one; but they could not see it. A cock that has such action is a hard cock to whip, and if he once gets his opponent down, he is not apt to give him any chance to recover.

You want a cock to be fighting all the time, and in picking out a brood cock, you should pay special attention to his fighting qualities, as well as his gameness. If you have the gameness and good constitution in your cocks, but they lack speed and are not leg fighters, go to the cock fights, and if you see a cock that has the speed and cutting

qualities, and is game, no matter if he is not shaped to suit you, put him with your hens; take the old cock off the walk and put on the new one. Your hens have gameness and constitution; that you know. You put the new cock in the yard to improve the fighting qualities, and after one season's raising, take him off the yard and put back your old one. In the new cock's pullets you have infused new blood, and it will do the cross good and be stronger than ever by re-crossing the old cock on the pullets from the new cock, and besides, you have improved their fighting qualities.

Now next year you need a new cross. You pick a fine shaped stag out of the old cock and the new pullets, and put him on the original old hens. You want to cross and re-cross and infuse new blood. Infusing new blood brings new life, makes strength, improves the fowl in every way, but it must be the proper kind of cross, and not a cross that will injure your fowl. Always aim to keep up the constitution of the fowls, and never cross a sick cock with your fowl, no matter who raised him. Never breed a roudy cock; you will find his chicks will not thrive. Some will develop, but not strong, but the majority of them will not do well. In-breeding is bad.

It diminishes the fowl year after year, and they lose their vitality, can not stand much, hard to raise, and after they are raised they are no good. A breeder cannot start right in and in the first year have any amount of first-class cocks. It is better that he meet with a few disappointments in the start, and it will make him wiser, and profit by it. A breeder if he once has a good strain should be very careful not to get them ruined, as it is very hard to get good ones, and when you have them, it is pretty hard to keep them straight, for you have to keep infusing new blood, and if you are not posted and a good judge you are liable to ruin them in a very short while in crossing. In crossing always put on a separate yard, so if you do make a mistake you know just where it is, for no matter who the cocker is, he is liable to make a mistake, and a serious one at that. If I started in to breed cocks, I would not breed from anything I did not see fight, and I would have to be satisfied from my own personal knowledge that he was a game cock. Now, how would I get such a cock? I would go to the cock fights, and if I saw a cock thoroughly tested in the pit, and if he suited me, I would buy him if I could, and I would use my own judgment and not

other people's; and if I did not get a cock to suit me the first winter, I would wait until the next. No use raising cocks that everybody can whip. Better do without them. Now, some cockers say that after getting a cock that has fought he will not be able to do service to the hens, and that he might not be a game after all. Both are to some extent true. Then how are you going to find out whether your cock is game — after you have seen the cock fight a long drag fight, and becomes exhausted? You can tell by a cock's action at that stage whether he is a game cock or not. A good game cock is persevering at all times. Even if he is so exhausted that he can do no execution, he is willing at all times to go to the front, while the dung-hill will stand still. Exhaustion to a cock is as much punishment to a cock as cutting, and sometimes when a cock becomes distressed he will leave the pit, and all the cutting you could inflict upon him would not make him go. The next morning also is the time to tell whether you have a game cock. If he is a dunghill, he will hang back in his coop and won't look at food nor make any effort to crow, but a thoroughbred game cock will come to the front, and his very action will show that he is right. He will make an

effort to eat, although he won't be able to swallow. Put him on the floor and hold a cock to him. He will come to the front at once and try to fight. A dunghill, when you put him down the next morning, in putting him on the floor and holding a cock to him, he will back away. Make a bluff. He won't come to the front like a true game cock. Besides, there are other ways too numerous to mention how you can tell whether he is game. The best way is to let him cool off after his fight, and in the morning you can tell by his actions. If the cock should suit, then you want to get him so he can have intercourse with the hens. You keep the cock cooped up, and feed him soft food until the soreness has left him, and on a nice warm day put him out and let him exercise himself for a couple of hours. The great trouble is, as soon as some of the feeders buy one of the cut-down cocks, they take him home, and the next morning they throw him out in the cold, paying no more attention to him. He is cut out of feather, and is used to being housed up. Being cut and sore, and after going through the process of conditioning, he is thin in flesh, and being put out in the sudden cold in that condition, immediately catches cold. His joints stiffen and his wounds won't heal,

and he is probably fed on nothing but corn. He becomes a wreck, and if he don't die he will be so stiff that it will be a long time before he gets well, and probably he never will get well. A cock cut out of feather, after being reduced by going through the process of conditioning, and after being cooped up, although he never fought, will stiffen up so he won't be able to have intercourse with the hens if he is thrown out suddenly in the cold. By letting the wounded bird out in the sun every day a little while and feeding him soft food, he will soon come to himself, and I would sooner take chances on a cock that I saw tried, and raise one, and be right, than to take some man's word and raise fifty, and be wrong. If I did not raise but three or four the first year it would be a start on the right road. The right road is what you are all looking for, but you don't pursue the proper course to find it. If you see a cock die game and you know the cocker to be a reputable man that raised him, you could buy a brother to him, and breed from him. He might turn out to be just what you want. If he turned out bad, what redress would you have? None; only this: You could take the cock back and have to accept any excuse he may offer.

The cocker that sold him to you might have meant well, and was honest with you, but he made a mistake, and his mistake was your loss. He is sorry for it and will give you another one.

You accept his explanation, take home the cock and put him with your hens and breed from him, and in two years you are worse off than you were before. You have a whole lot of cocks and hens, but they are a whole lot of dunghills; and then you will see your mistake, after fooling away two or three years, raising, or trying to raise, game cocks from a dunghill on another man's say. There are exceptions, though. A real practical cocker and breeder who fights his cocks for his money generally has the best cocks, for he understands his business and he can't afford to meddle with anything else but first-class fowls. Experience teaches him this and he generally pays for his learning. He knows the fighting qualities of his cocks; he comes in contact with different cockers as experienced as himself. He sees something in his opponent's cock that is lacking in his fowl. The experienced eye sees this very quickly and he improves his fowl accordingly. Therefore if you buy fowls it is safest to buy from the breeder that fights his cocks, for he has the

real fighting cocks. Don't buy fowls because they are cheap, unless you know they are straight. It is much safer to buy a hen from a cocker and pay him five dollars for it than to buy five hens for five dollars from some inexperienced party, also with a cock. If you see a cocker have a cock that suits you and you know he is what you want, don't let a few dollars stand in your way, for you must remember he is worth as much to the cocker as he is to you, and besides he has had to pay dearly for his experience with money and labor and the chances are, if you don't buy him, you won't find another to suit you as well.

If you have a good brood cock, then take good care of him, for if you part with what you know is good you have to receive something that you perhaps know nothing about, and in putting a new cock on your yard, be positive you are right before you put him down. Should there be any doubt in your mind, don't put him down, for you may have worked a long while to get a fine lot of chickens, and should you put down a cock that was not right you would make a sorry mess of it. Breeders should always have three or four brood cocks, on good walks, where they can go at any time and pick one up. If a breeder sees a fine cock that would

make a fine cross, he should buy him, even if he had no hens to put him with for the time being. He could put him out and have him in reserve, for no telling how soon he would have use for him. A great many breeders, needing a cross, go to a cock fight and seeing a cock that suits them, they want him badly, and ask the cocker: How much do you want for him? The cocker will probably ask \$10, \$15 or \$20 for him. They will come to the conclusion that it is too much, and they think they can get along another year without a cross, and go home and breed-in once more, probably having already been bred-in once or twice. There is where they make the mistake. He will do more damage in that one year to his fowls than he can undo in five. Why? Because his fowls have already been crossed-in once or twice, the blood has already been weakened, and it won't stand any more adulterating. Every time you breed-in you weaken the fowl in strength, diminish it in size and reduce his courage; every time you cross you strengthen the fowl, it increases in size, you bring new life, it infuses new blood. If a breeder knows what he wants and has the opportunity to get it, he should not let the chance slip by, for he probably won't get another chance when he most

needs it. That breeder had better have paid the cocker \$15 or \$20 for that cock. If he had bought him and bred from him, in two years he would have had a different stock of chickens, his cocks might have been the talk everywhere and he not able to raise enough to supply the demand; but the cocks he raised from his in-breeding nobody would have, and it would only be a short time before he would be forgotten entirely in the chicken world, and it would take him a long time to regain his reputation as a breeder of fighting cocks. A good brood cock is worth all the way from \$5 to \$25, and those who want to buy fowl must bear this in mind. If they want to buy cocks from a practical cocker, or a breeder that fights his cocks, they must expect to pay a first-class price, and a fine cock is worth more to them than he is to you, for they have to have fighting cocks to win with; besides it takes lots of time, study, labor and money to produce such cocks, and if you haven't got the money to pay them their price, then stay out of the business until you get the money. It won't pay you to fool with anything but the very best and if you want the very best you must go to those that have them and know how to produce them. If you can't buy two hens, buy one; you will soon have

enough from one, and you will find by starting this way it will pay you much better than to buy from some one not experienced. A game cock and a game fighting cock are two different fowls, and if you want a game fighting cock you must go to the man that has them. In buying a cock that has been fought for breeding purposes, buy one that has had no bones broken; if only flesh wounds, he will get well, if not allowed to catch cold, in a short time. It is always best when you want a cock of this character to buy him a year before you want to use him, and let him run with a few hens, and when you want to use him, pick him up and put him with your hens. If he had no bones broken, no matter how hard a battle he fought, and not thrown out in the cold before he was well, he will be in condition to have intercourse with a reasonable number of hens. Should he prove a failure and not get well, you can see it a long time before you want to use him and can replace him in time. Breeders should always have brood cocks on walks where they can go at any time and pick up one and use, as then they would rarely be disappointed. Unless you do follow this rule you are liable to meet with disappointments.

Pedigree in a fighting cock don't amount

to anything. It may look well on paper to some, but that is all it amounts to. Color or plumage cut no figure in their fighting qualities, as different colored plumage is produced by crossing, at the fancy of the breeder. A white cock will bring as much as a black or a red, if he has the fighting qualities. Be sure your brood fowls are not faulty, for little faults in the old birds develop great faults in their progeny.

CONDITIONING AND FEEDING FOR THE PIT.

Conditioning cocks for the pit requires experience, and no man that has not had experience can take a lot of cocks and condition them properly. It also takes lots of time and labor. Every cocker has a different way of feeding and conditioning, and they keep their method a secret if they can. In fighting cocks you have to have your cocks in condition to stand cutting. Their flesh must be hard, must have good lung power, and all this can only be gained by going through the process of conditioning. Some breeders say that their cocks fight better right off the walk, and don't need conditioning. That is to some extent true. Take

a cock right off his walk and fight him. He will fight faster and harder right then than he will any other time, but he won't last long. In two or three buckles, he is so used up he can hardly stand. He will not recover his wind or strength for the time being. Besides, he can't stand cutting, and if he cannot win in the first or second buckle, he is pretty sure to get whipped. If you take a cock right off his walk and fight him, and he is badly cut, it affects him three times as much as a cock that has gone through the process of conditioning. The cock just his off walk is liable to die from the cutting, and the conditioned cock will get well in a few days. A cock in good condition, good lung power, (a good game cock,) can stand a wonderful lot of cutting. He will, at times, to all appearances, be dead, and when the experienced handler picks him up and nurses him properly, he will bring him back to life in a few moments, and probably win the fight. That shows conditioning, strength, constitution, vitality. That is all brought out of a cock through the process of conditioning. Take a cock in condition and fight him, and, when he is almost exhausted, you handle him and nurse him a little, you will see how quickly he will recover and regain his wind and his fighting

qualities, when the unconditioned cock in that exhausted state would not recover. Therefore, it is proper to have cocks in condition if you want to fight them. Now the question is: What process do we have to go through to get cocks in proper condition? In conditioning cocks a man can put them in proper order in different ways. There are no specified rules that he must follow. He can feed on any kind of grain. He can use corn, oats, barley, hominy, oat meal, whole barley or pearl barley, meat, boiled eggs. He can take his choice and follow his own ideas, and never ask any one. If a cock gets tired of one kind of food, feed him something else; but if you watch your cocks they won't get tired of their food. Here are nine different kinds of food to pick from, and when I condition I most always have all these kinds of food on hand, besides apples and cabbage, onions, corn meal. Change their feed according to their condition. Never starve a cock; if he won't eat one thing he will eat another, and work on that principle. A great many cockers are under the impression that working the cocks, alone, makes them hard. That is a mistake. You can harden a bird by feeding and cooping. And some cockers are under the impression that if the flesh on the bird is hard,

that is all that is necessary to fit him for the pit. That is another mistake.

A bird hardened by being cooped and fed without any exercise, when fought, has no recuperating powers, no matter how game he is. After two or three severe buckles, and after being cut, he gets soft, and when he gets soft his strength leaves him, he becomes exhausted and in that condition he is easily whipped. Take the same bird and put him through the process of conditioning and when in proper fix fight him. After two or three buckles, when exhausted, you handle him, he recovers quickly and when you put him down he is almost as fresh as ever. That shows conditioning and reserve power. If he is a good game cock, he will seem to swell in your hands. As long as your bird feels like that, you can rest assured he has plenty of fight left in him; but every game cock you condition doesn't act like that by any means. Some cocks after being conditioned and in fine fix when you fight them, after they have had two or three pretty severe buckles and get a pretty good cutting. When you put them down they stand still, waiting for the opposite cock to come over, and then he don't fight with the same vim and speed and strength he did before, although he is in fine shape

to fight. Then is the time the dunghill begins to show itself. He will make a feeble attempt to fight, but his heart is not in it and he will finally sit down and act as if he was cut to pieces, not hit a lick and then be counted out. Such cocks are sulkers (dunghills) and all the conditioning you can give them won't make them fight. He has the recuperating power but he won't use it, because he is a dunghill. In conditioning cocks there is such a thing as going too far. You want to know when your birds are in condition and when to stop working them. A great many cockers overdo the thing and often have themselves to blame for getting their cocks whipped. They think if they are not in their cock-house from morning until night, flipping or tossing their birds, they won't get in condition. If you give them too much, it is worse than not enough. I have seen cockers bring cocks into the pit with the gloss of the feathers all gone, wing and tail feathers in bad shape, no life in the bird, although he had been a fine, active cock when the cocker first got hold of him. When he put him in the pit he could not fight, acting as if he was afraid to strike; could not fly six inches from the ground and when he got cut he went all to pieces, could not recover. He had no recuperating power,

and if he had he could not use it. Why? Because the cocker had worked the bird until he was sore—worked all the life out of him. He did not know why the cock acted so, and finally came to the conclusion that the bird had been drugged, when in fact he had him half whipped before he brought him to the pit.

There are two ways to exercise or work cocks. Great care should be taken not to work too much. Flipping or tossing birds is not the best way to work them; they get stiff and sore, lose their speed, get their feathers pulled out, get tired, lose their vim and get indifferent. Cockers, as a rule, when conditioning, toss their fowls up from ten to two hundred times a day for two or three weeks. Let an inexperienced handler toss his birds up for ten days, two hundred times a day, every time he comes down, he lights on his feet, he comes in contact with a sack of straw, either on a table or the head of a barrel, with no spring what ever to it. It stoves him up more or less, and if the handler is not a good hand the chances are, when he comes down, he will fall through his hands and land on his breast bone; and about six times out of ten the cock will get away, and in trying to check him the handler will have him by the wing or tail feathers.

At the end of that time they will be a pretty sore lot of fowls.

In working fowls, to my notion, I find it is not good policy to toss or flip them. I believe in making a fowl exert himself, make him bring every muscle into play, and any exercise (natural) you can make a cock perform is better than tossing. You make a horse run or trot to fit him for a race; then, why not a fowl? You train them both for speed, strength and lung power. Do you assist a horse? He performs the work himself. Then, why should you assist a fowl?

Get a lot of straw in your working room, make two or three pretty large hills of straw and take the bird you are going to work and throw him on the straw. Then take a cock that is not of much use and hold him in your hand and let the cock strike at him until he seems to get tired. It is not necessary to let the fowl on the ground hit the one you have in your hand, and you want to avoid it. After you think he has enough of that, make him run over these hills of straw after the bird you have in your hand. After you have warmed him up he will work very hard and completely tire himself out. Don't work him too much at one time. You can stand perfectly still. Stand by the mid-

dle pile of straw and change the bird from one hand to the other and have the cock running back and forth accordingly. After you have given him enough of that, walk him around on the straw for about five minutes. It is best to have two rooms, and while you are working with one, your assistant can walk the other. Keep him on the move for five minutes at a pretty good gait and then at the close let him take his time, so you will not distress or overheat him. About four days before the fight put the muffs on. Do not keep them on too long. After that do not work them any more, but throw them out every morning in the straw and let them scratch a little while and walk them around for about five minutes. Do not let them hit at a cock after you have muffed them. In working cocks they lose their speed and at times get indifferent and will not hit at the cock you hold at him. Such cocks you must give more walking exercise. By not working the cocks any for three days before the fight, they recover their speed, and by letting them scratch and flap their wings they receive a moderate exercise.

In working cocks you want to start gradually and work more every day, until they are fit, and then decrease the work gradually; about twelve days is all you want. From

the fourth to the eighth days, work pretty hard, then work less every day. If you have your cocks well off the floor, leave a hen and an old battered cock in the cock-house until about three days before the fight. It keeps the cocks working and it works the food through them. You want to keep your cocks in the light; you want ventilation but no draft; if extremely cold put just enough fire in the stove to take the chill off, but don't warm the room unless it is very cold. This same work will do for short and long heel fighting. In long heel fighting cocks don't have to be reduced so much as cocks for short heel fighting; they can carry a fair share of flesh, if it is hardened. For short heel fighting work the same, but a little longer. A fighting cock don't want to be starved into condition; he must be worked and fed so that he won't lose any of his speed and strength, and if you work your fowl according to the above instructions, you will find a great improvement, besides no broken feathers and no sore fowls from handling, or loss of speed. They retain their vim, and besides a great deal of unnecessary work is saved. In feeding almost every cocker feeds different. If you use corn get sound old corn, have it cracked, not fine; if you use hominy get old hominy;

in using barley there are different ways of feeding it; raw barley is hard to digest; some feed it raw, some scald it and feed it wet, some scald and then sun-dry it, some roast it (not too much), and some use the pearl barley; some use scalded oats, some scalded oats and hard-boiled eggs; some parch hominy and feed it. A man conditioning can soon see how the feed is acting, and can feed what he thinks best; he can condition on any of the food I have mentioned, but that is not all; he must feed his fowls so that they won't take sick and refuse to eat. That is the most particular part: not ruining the cock's appetite; and when a fowl gets into such shape stop feeding him grain and give him a raw egg, shell and all, and when he is regaining his appetite don't force the grain on him, but give him fine chopped meat, or fine chopped apple, or hard-boiled egg, chopped fine, until he is himself again.

MY METHOD OF CONDITIONING.

In conditioning a lot of twenty-one cocks I have my coops eighteen by twenty inches, or twenty by twenty inches, up off the floor about three feet and fill the coops with fresh straw. When the cocks arrive I get them in the coops and give them a few swallows of water and then take them out one at a time, cut off the spurs, and trim the feathers off the stern, and then grease them about the stern and under the wings with sweet oil and oil of sassafras. If they came a great distance I don't bother them any the first day. My first feed to them is bread and milk. I take a loaf of wheat bread and soak it in water, and after it is well soaked I squeeze the water from it and throw it into a pan and add milk enough to it to make a kind of batter; that is their first food and acts as a physic as well as food. If they are not too tired I take them out and bathe their heads and feet with hot water, then rub with whisky or alcohol, after being rubbed dry.

In the morning, the first thing, I take them out and examine their droppings, and if any show signs of fever I take him away

from the rest and treat him for it with quinine. Always in the morning feel the bird's legs and head to see if he has fever. Having examined the lot and having put in clean straw, I begin on number one and see how he can hit, and see whether he is sound on his feet. If he is O. K., I then put him through a pretty good exercise, as I have described above. After getting through with him I put him in the coop to cool off, and begin on the next, and go through the same process, until after I have worked about five or six. I then feed those that I have worked and are sufficiently cooled off, and then continue to work that way until I have worked them all. My feed in the morning is scalded oats and scalded barley. I don't drain it too dry, and put in about eight or ten hard-boiled eggs. I mix this well in a bucket and feed. I don't give any water in the morning, the oats and barley being moist enough. In the afternoon, the first day, I give four or five swallows of fine chopped beef, and at night I feed by artificial light. I give old corn (cracked) or old hominy, wetted. In the afternoon I give a few swallows of water. The next morning I follow the same process. I increase the work, and in the afternoon I give apples chopped fine in place of meat, one day meat the

next day apples or onions, and, if any cock shows any sign of unnatural thirst I give him three or four swallows of orange juice. I scald the oats and barley twenty-four hours before using. I follow the same process until the day before the fight. I then discard the meat and apple, and also oats and barley, and feed nothing but old corn. In feeding corn alone it makes too much heat, and your cocks are more liable to the swell-head. In feeding oats and barley they will not get the swell-head. The meat and apple regulate the bowels, and if fed this way the cocks will hit as hard when they are dying as when they first entered the pit. Don't feed too much in the morning; you are liable to stall them. The reason for feeding corn, a day before the fight, is this: If you feed the scalded oats and barley and meat up to the time of the fight, the droppings of the fowl would be soft, and in the pit, after being severely cut, the droppings will be watery, although it would not impair his strength; by feeding him corn alone his droppings will become hard. It is better to have a few grains in the craw when fought than have cocks too long without food. A sup of water just before the fight is good. Always have a scale in your stable and weigh your cocks,

and then you can see every day what they are doing. If you have no apple take raw cabbage or onions and cut it up fine and feed it to the fowl. They must have something green when cooped. Use carbolic acid to disinfect. Wash their heads and feet with warm water and wipe dry, and then use alcohol or whisky. Rub well on the day of the fight and cover up your coops on the last day. Feed about ten hours before the fight.

The food I have described here is just what every cocker uses and many cockers flip their cocks for the reason that they do not know any other way, and in feeding, a man must use some little judgment. If he thinks he likes raw barley the best, then let him use it or any other food I have described, and then take note how it acts. No cocker, after he reads the above article, need look for advice elsewhere, because no one can tell him any more. Raw barley and hominy or old cracked corn make a good feed. Raw barley is hard to digest. You can feed raw barley in the morning, baked barley and corn at night and meat in the afternoon, or scalded barley sun-dried and corn or hominy mixed. I don't believe in parched corn, no substance being left in it. Feed anything that doesn't make much heat, that is strengthening and don't produce fat. Work

the cocks, always, before feeding. In flipping or tossing cocks, get a sack and fill it with soft straw and put it on a spring board and take the bird and toss him up and let him fall on the sack. After two or three falls, he will land on his feet. Start in the first day by tossing twenty-five times, the next day fifty, next seventy-five and then one hundred. Keep at one hundred for five or six days, then decrease. A cocker must judge how much work a cock ought to have. Never keep your cocks in the dark through the day. They want sunlight. Some cockers keep their cocks in the dark during the day. That is a bad practice and no good results can come from it. Cocks are sure to get sick and if they are conditioned that way they will be easily whipped. All fowls want sunlight. A cocker goes into his stable in the morning and after feeding and working his fowl he closes up his stable and leaves his fowl in darkness when they should have sunlight. If he intends to fight at night he does not go near his fowl until night, and feeds by artificial light. After feeding he turns down the light and the cocks are left in the dark until he arrives in the morning to feed. They sit still, the food does not pass through them and when he comes to feed he finds his fowls

don't digest their food well and he comes to think there is something the matter with the feed. He knows no better and keeps on feeding and keeping his cocks in the dark. By and by the cocks lose their appetite and refuse to eat and begin to get sick, and if he pulls through with them they won't amount to much. In conditioning a cock you want to put all the feed into him that he will eat and all the work he can stand at certain times of the period of conditioning. While conditioning you must not go to extremes in feeding or working. In the middle part of your conditioning time you can work the cocks all you want to, but when it gets down to the last days you have to quit; if your fowl can't digest his food, then you can't work him. Unless you can work him he won't be able to fight, and unless he eats he won't have strength and is of no use. In conditioning a cock for a fight, the object is to get strength and lung power.

The only way to do that is to get him to eat. The more feed you can get into a cock the more strength it will make, providing it is fed to him in a proper way. In conditioning fowls, according to my method, after I feed in the morning and ready to close the stable, I let out a hen and an old battered cock to scratch in the straw. The

cocks full of feed will not sit down all day; they will be constantly working all day, trying to get at the hen. That is just what I put the hen in there for. When I go to feed in the evening I find the food has passed through them, nothing in their crops, and ready for a good dose of corn, or anything else I choose to feed them. Now, the man that has his cocks in the dark goes to feed at night, and he finds the same food in the crops that they ate in the morning, and he either feeds very little or not at all. His fowls have been sitting still all day, and they have had no exercise and their food would not pass through them. Every feed adds strength if properly fed, and if the cocks can not pass the food, then they can't eat it. Cocks must have sunlight and ventilation, by all means, and unless you give them both, I would advise you not to coop up your fowls. A great many cockers use no judgment, and hearing of some cockers doing so and so, they think they must do likewise, never stopping to think of using a little common sense, or that he knows as much about chickens as the other man, and probably more, but because the other does so he must do likewise. The hen is a necessity in a cock house where you have a lot of cocks confined, and should be left there until about

two or three days before the fight, and then taken out. After you have worked your cocks, no matter how you work them, or how hard you work them, you must quit about three days before the fight. In those three days they want rest. All you want to do with them is to throw them down and let them scratch in the straw for about ten minutes each day, and on the day you fight you want to cover your coops with old sacks, but not before. Never work cocks up to the day of the fight. About ten or twelve days are sufficient to work cocks, and if you work them longer they will get worse in place of better. In working cocks they lose their speed, and after you have them in shape you want to quit working them, and then they will recover their speed. A great many cockers work their cocks up to the last day; that is bad. That does not give them a chance to recover their speed. Always have small gravel or pounded oyster shells and egg shells lying on the floor of the cock house, so in scratching they will always find something to make them work in the straw. It is not alone beneficial but it is necessary for the cocks to have it.

The following food can be used for conditioning, and is the only food that should be used :

OATS AND BARLEY AND HARD-BOILED EGGS.

Put the oats and barley in a bucket, and pour over it scalding water until all is submerged; then cover with a cloth, so as to keep it from getting cold too soon. Let it stand for a day and night, and when you go to use it you will find that the oats and barley have absorbed most all the water. When you want to feed, take as much oats and barley out of the bucket as you want to use, and peel your eggs and mix with your feed what you want to use. Give no water when you feed this in the morning. Give as much as they will eat, and then take it away. In the afternoon give three swallows of water and five or six swallows of fine chopped meat, and at night give hard cracked corn.

OATS AND BARLEY.

Oats and barley, scalded, without eggs, may be fed in the morning, water and meat in the afternoon, and hard corn or hominy at night.

PURE BARLEY, SCALDED.

Scalded barley for morning, water and meat for afternoon, and corn at night.

SCALDED OATS AND HARD-BOILED EGGS.

Scalded oats and hard-boiled eggs in the

morning, water and meat in the afternoon, and corn or hominy at night.

SCALDED BARLEY AND OAT MEAL.

Scalded barley and oat meal in the morning, meat and water in the afternoon, and corn or hominy at night.

BARLEY AND EGGS.

Scalded barley and hard-boiled eggs in the morning, water and meat or apple in the afternoon, and corn at night.

BARLEY AND HOMINY OR CORN.

Scalded barley, mixed with corn or hominy, in the morning, water in the afternoon, and corn at night.

RAW BARLEY, MIXED WITH HOMINY OR CORN.

Raw barley and hominy in the morning and at night, and meat in the afternoon. If fed this way, wet the feed morning and night.

BAKED OR ROASTED BARLEY—NOT TOO WELL ROASTED.

Roasted or baked barley in the morning, meat in the afternoon, and corn or hominy at night. Give water in the morning, and wet the corn at night.

ROASTED BARLEY AND CORN OR HOMINY.

Roasted or baked barley, mixed with corn or hominy, morning and night, and meat in the afternoon.

RAW BARLEY.

Raw barley and water in the morning, meat in the afternoon and corn at night.

CORN OR HOMINY.

Corn or hominy, wet, in the morning and at night, and meat in the afternoon.

Never feed unscalded oats.

In feeding apples and meat or onions, change about every other day, or every day is better.

Should any of the cocks show any signs of unnatural thirst give him three or four swallows of orange juice.

All the ways of feeding and the food I have here described is natural food and a common-sense way of feeding, and any amateur that will follow any of the methods I have here described need not be afraid of not having his fowl in proper fix, if he does not work them too much.

CORN SHOULD NEVER BE SCALDED.

Never, while you are conditioning cocks, feed bread or dough. The only time to feed bread is the first food you give them after you have cooped them for the fight, and that should be bread and milk to clean them out. Never under any cir-

cumstances give a healthy cock drugs. No good result can come of that. Any amount of cockers drug their cocks when they first get them off the walk, no matter whether they are sick or well. That is nonsense. What do you want to physic a sound, healthy cock for? And a great majority of the cockers that give their cocks drugs to physic, don't know whether it will kill them or physic them. If you are going to physic a cock let him be a sick one, not a healthy one. I have received cocks from cockers supposed to know all about cocks, and they would be so weak from physic that they were more dead than alive; and the cocks would pick up eight to ten ounces. You can not condition cocks by physicking them to death. A sound healthy cock just off the walk wants nothing but a good feed of bread and milk, and that will physic him all he needs.

I would not advise corn alone, as it makes too much heat, and if he should take the swell-head he will take it very hard.

HANDLING.

Handling can only be learned by experience. A handler must have a mind of his own, must be cool, keep his temper, use judgment, must be quick in action as well as mind. One thing above all, learn to pay no attention to what outsiders say, for if a pitter goes into the pit to handle a fowl and stops to listen and argue with every spectator that chooses to interfere with him, he won't have much time to attend his fowl; he gives all his attention to outsiders. Never pay the slightest attention to them. Act just as if no one was in the building but you and your opponent. In the pit you must use your own judgment. Whenever you are in the pit you are the boss of the fowl, and you are not obliged to listen to any advice. All bets go according to the battle money. If the stake is only one dollar and a man on the outside bets one thousand, that cuts no figure with the pitter. You are there in the pit to fight according to the rules of the pit, and are fighting for that dollar. You are not fighting for that man's thousand dollars, and are not obliged to listen to him if he is inclined to argue that you are not handling according to his

ideas. Sometimes a very large crowd assembles at a cock fight, and when a fight is going on any number of outsiders will yell at every move the pitter makes, and if he is any ways timid he will lose his wits. It is not an easy matter by any means to get into a pit and handle a cock in a fight where there is a large crowd present and lots of money bet. There will be all kinds of slurs thrown at the pitter, and if he tried to please them all he would make a sorry mess of it. Therefore a pitter should never, in the slightest manner, let what the outsiders say interfere with his judgment. Before entering the pit he should know the rules. That is necessary. If he does not know them he should call for them. If they have no rules he should acquaint himself with the custom of fighting cocks at that particular place. At most every fighting place they have different rules. (Rules are a custom.) Also find out from your opponent if he understands the rules or custom. If you both understand each other there won't be any arguments; but if both pitters are fighting, and both, or one of them, don't know the rules, there is bound to be trouble. Mostly all the trouble in the pit arises from this cause, and it is astonishing how few cockers understand the

rules thoroughly. The first thing to do, examine the gaffs. In putting your fowl down in the pit be careful you put him on his feet. Don't throw him down. And don't wait and hold your fowl in your hands until your opponent's bird comes over and kills him in your hands. If the cocks hang when you go to handle, put your hands on both fowls, (the rules require you to do that,) until the other handler has taken hold of his own bird. Your opponent must do likewise. That prevents the fowl from striking you. You are not to handle your opponent's bird under any circumstances, unless you have his permission. If the birds are hung, you are not allowed to draw the heel out of your opponent's bird. Nor must he draw the gaffs from your bird. You are not allowed to pull the cocks apart when they are hung or in any manner jerk them apart, but hold them quietly until the heels are drawn. Before putting down the fowls, always see that the gaffs are clean and his legs are free or clear after a buckle. When you pick your bird up after a buckle do not toss the bird about; hold him quietly and gently straighten his feathers and see that his feet and gaffs are not entangled and get him ready as soon as possible, so you won't have to be told too often to come

down. In holding the bird quiet he will regain his wind. If there is nothing on his head or beak, don't fool with him and annoy him for nothing; always hold him in a position so he can see the other bird so that when you put him down he will know where to look for him. If you see your bird is fighting fast and exhausting himself, pick him up as soon as you get a chance to handle and let him recover his wind, press his legs up; but all this time you must hold the bird perfectly quiet and change the bird from one hand to the other without tossing him about. In tossing him about you do him more harm than good. If the bird is rattled or bleeding at mouth don't use the nasty habit that some handlers have of sucking the blood. That is disgusting and does not do any good. If a bird is rattled catch him by the beak and draw his head up; stretch his neck full length, press your fingers on his craw at the same time and if he is not too badly rattled he will swallow it. If he won't swallow it and is badly rattled you can make him sling it out. Always see that the bird's nostrils are clean and if there is blood on his nostrils wet your thumb and forefinger and clean them with it. Don't use tobacco while you are handling, for if your bird gets much distressed you want to

wet his tongue with saliva quite often, and tobacco will make him sick. In handling a vicious bird, don't use him roughly, and if he bites your hand don't pull it away; let him bite; hold your hand perfectly still; he will then quit. In jerking your hand away you will do yourself more injury than the bird could do you. If he has hold of your hand and won't let go, hold perfectly still and blow at his head and he will let go. When you set a biting bird down of that kind in the pit, they are apt to turn on the pitter and while turned around, the opposite bird is liable to come across the pit before your bird can see him and kill him. In putting down a bird of that kind in a pit put him down on a line with you, about two or three feet to the right of you. Put him down quickly and run across toward your opponent. He will see you run and start for you, and in going across he meets the other bird. These birds are spoiled by being fooled with. A vicious bird is easily cured if you treat him kindly, take him out of his coop quite often, and put on a pair of gloves and stroke his neck up and down gently; and when he wants to bite hold perfectly still, and in a few days he will be perfectly gentle. If a bird is coupeled, and not too bad, you get him on his feet by holding the bird firmly

in your left arm; lay him on his side with his back toward you; pull his legs straight out behind, (one at a time,) take the leg in your right hand and put your thumb on the knee joint (the outside), and push the leg straight toward the body as if you intended to push the leg straight through the body toward the head. In doing this you don't want to let your thumb slip from the joint. Push the leg up very hard. After you have pressed them both up take the bird firmly in your two hands, draw his legs up to his body as if you intended to make him set on the ground. Put him down in that manner with his legs under him, and put almost your full weight on him. Do not let the weight fall on him suddenly, but gradually, and, when it is time for you to let go, do so suddenly. Handle then as often as as you can and the more you can handle the better it will be for the bird. You want to repeat this as often as you can get hold of your bird, but don't use the force you did the first time, and every time you repeat this use less force until the bird is on his feet again. It requires some experience to do this successfully. A handler must use good judgment when it gets down to a long fight. He must watch his fowl and must be able to judge whether he has strength, or

tell when he is failing, and must also tell whether it is policy to pick up his fowl or not; or in other words, take the count or not.

At times a cock will get a cut on top of his head, (what is called a brain blow,) and when he receives it he generally squawks and runs, first one way and then another. It is always policy to catch him as soon as possible. If you can get a hold of him, rub the back of his head hard with your thumb, and when he comes to, if he is a game cock, he will fight harder than ever; but it is not always policy to pick him up when he receives this stroke. It may only be a light one, and immediately on coming to he will fight very hard. Some cocks, when struck there, get their eyesight destroyed, and many a good gamecock has been given the credit of being a dunghill for running around the pit and not fighting, when the other cock is keeping after him and continually cutting him in the rear. A large percentage of cocks that receive that stroke, become stupid and crazy, and lose their eyesight also; they would not come to, and are not able to fight again that night, and probably never. A cock in this condition, with another after him, and continually cutting him in the stern, is not responsible for his actions. The best of game cocks will do it. It depends entirely how

severely the sight is injured. Cocks at times will receive a stroke there, and their eyes will turn completely around, and remain so. Such cocks very seldom recover. It is always best to get hold of them if you can. They are liable to recover in your hands. While on the ground in that condition he is an easy prey for your opponent.

At times, in a long fight, your bird becomes exhausted and terribly distressed. If you can possibly do it, you want to delay the fight as much as the rules will allow. Your bird will tremble very hard. At that stage you will have to show your nursing qualities. He will recover if you can get the time and give him the proper kind of nursing. Your bird's feet will be cramped, and the man that tied the heels on will be given the credit of tying on the heels too tight, by ninety-nine people out of a hundred, and all believe it, and old cockers believe it. That is not the cause of it. It is caused by exhaustion. The bird is distressed, his muscles become cramped, his feet are cramped. Wet your thumb, rub his knee joints very hard, straighten out his toes and rub them vigorously, and after you get through rubbing his feet and joints, rub the thighs, and when you put him down draw his feet up under him. Put your thumbs on

his back and keep his feet pressed under him very hard; set him on the ground gently. If he has lots of fight in him, pit close; don't make him run over any unnecessary ground. Repeat this rubbing until the cramp has left him. You will have to work fast, for you only have half a minute at a time to work. Handle as often as you can at that stage, and repeat the rubbing.

There are any amount of things and circumstances that come in a handler's way during a cock fight that he must act upon instantly. That knowledge can only be acquired by experience in the pit. To be a successful handler he must have experience; he must have a mind of his own; he must have confidence in himself, be active, must know how to keep his temper; must know the rules; must pit fair; and, by all means, learn to pay no attention to the outsiders.

HEELING.

Heeling a cock is very simple. Some cockers try to make you believe that everything in a cock fight depends on the way the gaffs are set on the cock's leg, and if not tied on by a certain party the cock cannot win. This is absurd. There is nothing

mysterious about it, and it is very simple. I have handled thousands, and if there is any secret about it I have never found it out. All it requires is a little confidence, and of course you have to know how to tie them on, which any one ought to do after once seeing it done. There is no secret about it: all there is to it is throwing them out or in. If the gaffs are properly set in the leather, and the leather is cut straight, and you put them on according to leathers, straight across the leg, then you can not heel them wrong even if you want to. In putting on the heels you throw one heel out beyond the joint (I generally throw out the right, and some cockers throw out the left, but it is a mere matter of fancy), and the other you set just inside the joint, or in the middle of the leg (when I say throw the gaff out, I mean the point). If you have a high flying cock and a good leg fighter, then it is proper to throw them out, but if the cock is weak you heel them more closely and need not throw out any heel; but do just as you feel about it. If you throw them in too far and your cock is weak he is liable to gaff himself through the head; that frequently occurs, and is caused by weakness and being heeled to close.

In short heels it requires even less knack

to heel than it does in the long ones; they have very little set to them, and some have not any, and all a man has to do is to tie them on according to the leathers. I have heard men say So-and-so is the best heeler in America. That is all nonsense. There is no sense or reason in it. I have often seen parties at a cock fight carrying a cock around, wanting to fight him, but could not find any one who could tie on the heels to suit, and there were a dozen men present who could tie them on; but they would have to have their man to heel or no fight. When he did come and tie them on, they were satisfied, win or lose; that no one present could tie them on like he did. Now, probably he had never seen the cock on his feet to strike a blow. How could he tell how he was going to fight any more than any one else present? He simply tied them on, just the same as every cocker does, as I have described above. Take two cocks of equal weight and equal fighting qualities, take two pair of heels of equal size and set, square in their leathers, and let the best cocker in America take one pair and tie them on, and let a man who never saw a cock fight tie on the other pair, if he can put them on according to the leathers, and tie them securely, then what license has the expert to win? None, none

whatever! It is an even thing. It takes a little experience to tie them on securely and a little confidence; that is all there is to it. Some heels are set wider than others, and they do not need any throwing out. There is no such thing as right or left footed cocks and heeling according.

In certain parts of the country they are in the habit of using short heels, and never having used long heels they are under the impression that their cocks cannot fight with long heels; that is nonsense. Take two cocks of equal weight, one raised where the custom prevails to fight long heels, and the other raised where they fight short heels, weighing five pounds each, put two and a half inch heels on both, there is no odds; the short-heel fighter is just as liable to win as the other; all else is imagination, nothing more. It depends on the size of the cock the gaffs he can carry. A four-pound cock can carry from one and a half to two-inch heels; a four-pound six-ounce cock can carry two and a quarter inch heels; a four-pound ten-ounce cock can carry two and a half inch heels, if he is strong. I would not put over a two and a half inch heel on a five-pound cock. A five-pound five-ounce up to a six-pound cock can carry a heel from two and a half to three inches. It

depends on the strength of the cock. A cocker must use judgment, and must not listen to everybody's theory. Everybody has a pet idea of his own at a cock fight, and they want some one else to carry it out for them. A cocker must have a mind of his own, and with a little confidence in himself he will be able to heel and handle his own cocks. It is a little awkward at first. The only way you can learn is by actual experience, and you will never get the experience unless you take hold. In putting on the gaffs don't force them on the spurs. Put enough packing around the spur so that the gaff will go over it without force; and in taking off the heel, do it gently, or you will pull the horn off the spur. Don't twist the gaff in taking it off or use force. I have seen a cock heeled in this manner, and win, with a two and three quarter inch heel; the right heel put on the left leg and the left heel put on the right leg. This will prove to you that there is nothing in setting the heels. You must tie them securely or they will turn on the leg. You need not fear of cramping them by tying them too tight, as some would have you believe. A cock will not cramp, unless the fight is a long one and he becomes very much distressed, and that is not caused by the heels

being tied too tight alone. When the fowl gets into that condition the handler should rub his knee joints vigorously with his thumb (wet the thumb) and straighten his toes, rubbing them also between his thumb and forefinger. He must do this frequently, and by nursing the fowl properly it will leave him.

TESTING A GAME COCK.

No fowl or animal is more abused and tortured than a game cock, and for no other reason than to see if he is game. It seems the gamer he is the more he is punished or tortured for it. To take a game cock and put short gaffs on another cock and let him cut him from day to day, just for the sake of seeing how game he is, or how much cutting he will stand before he hacks or dies, is the most cruel torture that man can inflict on any living thing, and after inflicting all this torture what knowledge does he gain? He gains nothing, only this: He has seen how much punishment that particular fowl will stand without dying, or running away, or hacking, and to my notion that is a poor reward. That particular cock might die game, and a full brother to him might run away while going through the process of testing. If

that be true, then what knowledge have you gained? Only that one ran and the other died. And you can take 1,000 brothers, and when you get through butchering them you will see the same results: 500 died game, and 500 ran away. You would wonder how it could be that, all brothers, half died game and half ran away. The ones that died game would have ran too, if they could have held out long enough; but they were probably cut in vital parts, and died from mortal wounds which the others had not received. This three or four days' testing is unnecessary cruelty inflicted on a game cock. What cock can or will stand this punishment, no matter who bred him? He will either die or run away. Why? First of all, you must remember that a game cock is not made of cast-iron; second, he is flesh and blood, and he is not dumb to pains and sickness; and third, when you go to extremes nature is bound to give way. The amateur and a great many old breeders think a game cock can stand anything and everything, sick or well, and a great many, I believe, think a game cock ought never die. Any number of people are also under the impression that a game cock will not run away, sick or well. That is the cause of their torturing the fowls. They test a cock for two

or three days, and if he runs or hacks they come to the conclusion that he is a dunghill.

A game cock, when he is sick, is liable to go, and a sensible cocker or breeder never thinks of fighting a sick cock. A cock, when he is moulting, is very sore, and is liable to hack from no other reason than being sore. Now, if this be true, common sense ought to teach any one that a cock cannot stand to be cut from day to day for three or four days without hacking or running. In testing a cock you put short gaffs on a cock and let him punish the cock until you think he has had enough for that day; then you take the cock and put him in the coop. In the morning you will find him very sore. He is not able to eat or drink, and is burning up with a fever. You don't give him anything to allay the fever (ninety-nine out of a hundred never dream of that), but take him out and repeat the same cutting you gave him the day before. When you think he has had enough (if he don't run before you get a chance to think), you put him back in his coop. He won't eat or drink, and from the cutting he has received he is more dead than alive. All the cuts from the day before are festering and very sore. The cutting he receives on the second day on his feverish body is ten times more painful to him than

what he received the day before. The first day he would have taken his death, as any game cock should do; but if he took his death on the second day he would be a rare good one. If he lives, probably you would put him through the same process on the third and fourth days. To me this looks inhuman. I would never sell a fowl to any who would treat it in that way. After standing this butchery for a couple of days, and then running or hacking, he would be called a dunghill. A cocker with any cock sense never resorts to such methods. It is perfectly useless. You gain nothing by it. No breeder raises fowls, no matter who he is, that cannot be driven away by such treatment, and if ever you hear a man say otherwise you can rest assured he has not had much experience. A game cock can stand so much, and no more. If you go to extremes, nature is bound to give way. If you test a cock, or say he stands two or three days' test—tested enough to suit you—and if he don't run or hack, you will come to the conclusion he is a game cock. In case you fought him and he ran away you would be surprised. You tested him; he stood the test, and you can't account for it. The trouble is, when you tested him you did not cut him deep enough,

and had you cut him deep enough he would have run or got killed. If he had been killed, you would not have known whether he was game or not. A cock put through this process will either hack, die, get killed, or run away, and after all this trouble you will not be any wiser. The pit is the proper place to test a cock, and if you start right and buy the proper kind of fowls you won't have to test them. What sense is there in buying a cock from a breeder and then testing it and taking chances of killing or crippling it so you can never use it, when you can go to the cock-fights and see a cock fight where he is evenly matched? Then and there you can see his fighting qualities, and if he suited you, you could buy him, and if he got any bones broken you would not have to take him. If you bought a cock of this kind, and bought him from a breeder that you knew had good ones, what use would there be of your testing their stags? None. If you do test their stags or cocks, (and it is the only way I would go about it if I had to do it, and is the only way it should be done,) take two brothers of equal weight and tie on short heels and let them fight until one or both are either dead or so badly used up that they can fight no more. If one or both die you can satisfy yourself

whether they died game or not. If one lives and has been badly cut, let him out next morning and show him a cock, and you can tell by his actions if he is game. He may be badly cut, but if he is a game cock he will come to the front, and his actions will show you whether he is game or not. If he is a dunghill he will back away. He will hang back in his coop, probably hacking, and if you put him on the ground and hold a cock to him he will back away. Make a bluff. You can tell instantly whether he means it or not. I would never let a cock hit him while he is in that condition. A game cock will always try to eat or drink or crow, and he will come to the front, while a dunghill will hang back in his coop. A game cock should never be fought when he is sick or sore, for they are liable to run away. A game cock to take his death in a fight must be in good health. I have handled as many different strains of fowls as any man in America in the last twenty years, and I have never seen one yet that could not be made to run, and if there are any I have never been fortunate enough to run across them.

A cock will get tired of fighting if you fight him often enough, and he will get so he won't notice a cock unless he is jumped

upon by him. One cock, in particular, I noticed. He was a great fighter. I fought him twice in one night and won both fights. The third fight he got whipped. It was a long drag fight, and he was counted out. He was alive and up on his feet in the morning. I put him out on a run with hens. In four weeks I brought him back and fought him eight more fights that season and won them all. The last time I fought him he broke his opponent's leg, besides otherwise injuring him to such an extent that he could not rise. After the first handle I put him down and he never appeared to notice the other cock. He walked around the pit, scratching, picking up grains of sand, and even went up to the other cock and picked at his feathers very gently, not strong enough for me to take the count, because he was not fighting. The other cock was a sulker. I had to call for the usual three consecutive minutes, and then breast them out, and it was hard work to make him fight the other cock so that I could get the count. He was indifferent and would not hit a cock unless he was hit. The following morning he was not hurt, and ran around the stable the same as ever, never paying any attention to any of the other cocks. A few nights after I put him in the pit again,

and he began singing and hacking before I put him down. Now, that was a game cock, for he fought a long drag fight and was thoroughly tested, and I was positive he was as game as a cock could be. Yet he quit without being hit and was good and strong. He got tired fighting and quit, like all cocks will do when they get too much of it. I fought another cock fourteen times in three weeks. He ran away in his fourth fight and was in fine fix when he ran; not hurt from his previous fights. I fought him ten more times. In the tenth fight he had an eye cut out, and in the last fight he died Game. I call this cock a dunghill, although he died Game, for he ran when he was in fine fix and in good health. I might have been mistaken, for he might have been walked on a yard running under a cock of the same color, and as soon as he got cut ran away. But I fought him against all colors after that and he never showed any signs of running. I could recall any number of instances of this character, but the two are sufficient to show you how cocks act at times.

TREATMENT FOR BATTERED COCKS.

After the battle, when the cock is much cut and distressed, don't water him or wash his head with water or put him in the draft to cool off. If you do either, you are liable to find him dead on the following morning. A cock in that condition wants to cool off gradually. When a cock is much distressed, just give him a spoonful or two of whisky and water, and no more, and put him in his coop and let him alone and he will come around all right. When you go to feed him, don't feed him until he has thoroughly cooled off; then give him some soft food, a mixture of boiled corn meal and milk. Let him eat all he wants of it. It will cool him off and besides it is very strengthening and keeps his bowels open. A cock in this condition don't want to be worked on the following day, but take him out, bathe his head and legs with hot water, then rub him dry, rub his legs and head with alcohol, whisky or bay rum. Rub his legs good with it, throw a little grain in the straw and let him scratch a little while and then move him about for about five minutes. On the following day, if you find he is im-

proving, increase his exercise. Never feed grain after the fight. If the cock is in any way distressed or cut, he gets full of fever and is not able to digest grain. Feed, after battle, boiled corn meal mixed with milk, in the morning, and in the evening give some fine chopped meat. If you feed this way, he will soon recover. Give all the water he wants. After the fight, if the cock is much cut up and bloody, don't wash him off. Many a fine cock has been killed that way. Let the blood dry on him and in the morning grease his head with vaseline. Repeat in the evening. Bathe his legs well in hot water and then rub dry. Use spirits of some kind to rub his legs with. On the second or third day, wash his head with hot water and all the old blood will come off. If they are very sore, do not exercise them. A great many cocks, after fighting, are so sore they cannot eat. They get slimy in the throat. Give them oat meal gruel, hot, with a spoon; not too much at one time. Under no circumstances feed grain. If he gets so that he is willing to eat but can't, put a little chopped beef down his throat. Don't crowd him too much, for a cock in that condition don't need much food. Always try and give the battered cocks a hot mash in the morning. It helps them wonderfully

and they will eat plenty of it when they won't eat grain. It requires a great deal of patience to doctor a sick fowl and you must not hurry him too much. If the cock has too much slime in his throat, give him a little sweet oil, and in a short while after, give him a little hot water; this is an excellent remedy. Don't feed grain until he begins to crow and feel well. You must use some judgment in cases of this character. Never put a cock out in that condition, after he has been cooped up, for he will get stiff and it will ruin him for that season at least, unless he is pretty near well; then you can drop him out in the yard on a warm day while the sun is out, for a couple of hours, and let him wallow in the dirt. A good, large ground coop is good for him also, but if he is much cut and trimmed out of feathers, don't leave him out in the cold, for he will surely stiffen and it will do him more harm than good. Don't let him out while there is snow on the ground. Battered cocks should have all the green food they will eat.

LOUSY COCKS OFF THEIR WALK.

Cocks brought in from their walks should always be greased about the stern and under the wings. First cut away the feathers around the stern and then grease them. Any kind of grease will do temporarily. The best is sweet oil and oil of sassafras.

SWEET OIL AND OIL OF SASSAFRAS.

There is no better remedy for lice than this to put on fowls. Pour sweet oil in a dish and pour in enough oil of sassafras to flavor the oil. Cut away the feathers from the stern and take a little sponge or piece of cloth, or your fingers, dip in oil and grease the stern and under the wing. You don't have to put on much to drive away the lice. Put the oil on the young chicks' heads.

TRIMMING A COCK'S FEATHERS.

A great many cockers, in trimming the feathers, disfigure the fowl unnecessarily. Trimming the hackle and saddle feathers by an inexperienced hand generally disfigures the cock frightfully, and they should not be trimmed unless both parties demand it. If it

must be done, then it should be done by an experienced hand. A game cock trimmed of feathers by a novice is not a pleasant looking object. The saddle feathers need never be taken off. In trimming out, take the fowl by the legs with your left hand and put his legs between your fingers of the left hand and put him on his back on your left leg (extending your knee), and trim out all the feathers from the body you want to trim off; then hand him to some one to hold for you, take his wing and draw it from the body towards you, and trim one feather at a time. The first outside feather you cut off about two inches from its insertion in the wing; the next cut three, the next four, the next five, the next six inches, and so on until you come to the long wing feathers next the body. You cut about one inch off of them; just the tip ends. Then you take the saddle feathers in your left hand, let your helper lift up the wing, trim away all the loose feathers from under the saddle and around the tail on the side you are trimming. When you have one side trimmed turn the fowl around and trim the other side the same way, leaving the tail until the last, always. When trimming the tail feathers, let the helper take the fowl in both hands, with his head towards him,

and hold it steady. You hold the tail in your left hand and trim away all the loose feathers first. When that is done, spread the tail out and trim the same as you do the wings. You begin on one side. First, cut the feathers one at a time. Cut the first feather about three inches (according to the size of the tail) from its insertion; next four inches, next five inches, next six inches, until you get to the king feathers. You then trim the other side the same way until you come to the king feathers. You cut them off a little above the rest. When trimmed this way he will not be disfigured. When trimming the hackle feathers, let your assistant hold the fowl with his head towards you. Take the hackle in your left hand, catch it away down low and draw his feathers over his head, and then trim off the tip ends. The shiny feathers, if a handler understands trimming a hackle, won't look bad after cutting them off. The hackle does not have to be cut off in every fight—only when your opponent insists on having it done.

HOLDING A FOWL TO HEEL.

It is astonishing how few men you can find at a cock fight that understand how to hold a bird properly to tie on the gaff. Out of a hundred men you will find one or two, and sometimes none. Take a man out of the crowd and show him how to hold, and after you get through heeling he will be satisfied that the next time a man asks him to hold a bird while he ties the heels he will know how, and in thirty minutes after the fight, if you call him to hold another bird for you, he will remember nothing of what he was shown thirty minute before; and you will find men that have been going to the pit for years that do not know how.

To hold a fowl properly, (say the holder wants to tie on the left heel first), the holder should lay the bird on his side, take the bird's left leg with his left hand, catch the leg just above the spur with your thumb and two first fingers, and hold it out straight as if you were holding a stick; throw the right leg back and catch him by the thigh with your right hand, leaving the right foot exposed. Don't catch the foot

of the right leg and draw it up under him. That gives him power to kick, but by catching by the thigh with your right hand and holding him firmly, he cannot hurt himself and cannot break his feathers. He is perfectly helpless in that position. After you have the left leg heeled, turn him around and heel the right leg the same way. If he should try to get away and you have him in an ugly position, it is better for you to drop him at once, for fear, in trying to get a better hold, you will break his feathers; and by dropping him at once you can then pick him up and take a new hold and thus avoid mussing his plumage.

WEIGHING AND TAKING DESCRIPTION BEFORE THE MAIN.

When a main is about to be fought, and the time for weighing arrives, it is not necessary to take your opponent to your cock house, and there show him what cocks you intend to put in the main, and then hand him the key to your cock house, and he to do the same to you, and no one go into the cock house until the fight begins. You are not obliged to show your opponent anything until the time for weighing arrives. If

the main should be, say: Show twenty-one cocks from five to six pounds, and the day of weighing arrives, you must show twenty-one cocks from five to six pounds. You cannot show a five-pound two-ounce and put him up as a five-pound cock, or show a six-pound two-ounce and put him in as a six-pound cock. Even if your articles of agreement specify to give or take two ounces (that is the rule), that does not apply to the big and little end. That applies to all cocks that cannot be matched at even weight, separate from the big and little end. You must show a five and six-pound cock or forfeit the battle money for those two fights. You can show four pounds ten ounces up to five pounds as the five-pound cock, and you can show from five pounds ten ounces up to six pounds as the six-pound cock. You can go below but not above. You are not obliged to let your opponent handle any of your fowls in any manner, or even look into your cock house unless you choose to let him. When the time for weighing arrives, the two parties get together and decide which is to weigh first. Tossing up a copper is the best way to decide. If you win you can weigh first or compel your opponent to weigh first. If you weigh first, let your opponent do the weighing with

your assistance, and take a complete description of the cock and his weight. It is best to always select some one to describe the plumage and the marks of the cock, and both put down the descriptions as he describes them; thus you will not make any mistakes. When the cock is weighed and his description taken, you bring out another until you have shown twenty-one cocks of from five to six pounds. After you have weighed and taken description, you can both compare notes and see if there is any mistake (those are the twenty-one cocks you will have to fight, no matter what happens, that is your lookout). You then begin to weigh the other lot. You do the weighing for your opponent. After both parties are through weighing, you then match all cocks that weigh even. After all the even cocks have been matched, you then give or take two ounces and match all at that weight. Those that don't match, you can take out. After you are through matching, both of you have a description of every cock, and his weight, that has been shown, and are not obliged to show any cock until you go to fight him. When the fighting time begins you toss up a copper to see who gets the choice, or privilege, of naming what end he wants to fight first. If you win the choice

you can either pick your choice, the big end or little end, or can compel your opponent to name choice. When you are called upon to produce one, bring him out, and you must let your opponent examine him and see if he tallies with the description on the list. If so, you then weigh him. You follow this method out on both sides until the main is fought off. It frequently occurs that it takes two and sometimes three days for a main to be fought out, and a great many cockers have their cocks very thin about the time they begin weighing, and as soon as possible after weighing begin feeding. Their cocks will pick up flesh remarkably fast, and those that are to be fought on the second and third days will be from two ounces up above what they weighed when they were first weighed. That frequently brings on disputes and wrangles. An inexperienced cocker can't put flesh on his cocks very fast, and he doesn't think it is possible for a cock to improve so fast, and that a cocker, after once weighing his cocks in, is obliged to keep them at that weight. That is a mistake. If you can put a pound on a cock you are at perfect liberty to do so. The cock on being produced when called for must tally with the description on both lists, and if it is the cock, and your opponent refuses

to fight because he weighs more than he did on the day he was weighed-in, you trim out your fowl, and put on the heels and go into the pit and call on your opponent to produce his fowl, and if he refuses, you call on the judge for him to compel your opponent to produce his fowl, and if he does not produce him, the judge is compelled to award you the fight. If there has been any mistake made in weighing-in, either for or against you, you must abide by it and it cannot be corrected, unless you both choose to correct it. Mark the number and weight on the crop after the cock has been weighed, and after he has been fought, rub out the number, and then no mistakes are liable to happen.

TRAVELING WITH COCKS AFTER CONDITIONING.

After cocks are conditioned it is not good policy to travel any great distance with them. The man that has to do the traveling has much the worst of the bargain. If you have to take the cocks say 200 miles, it is best to get at the fighting place two or three days before the fight, for it is a very severe strain on cocks to be handled and

tossed about for 200 miles, and by getting at the fighting place a couple of days before the fight, that would give them a chance to recover. If the distance is 600 or 700 miles, then you will have to ship and condition the cocks at the fighting place. There is great danger in shipping a lot of cocks to fight a main so long a distance, and more so if you have a limited amount of cocks, for shipping the cocks that distance is a very severe strain on them. Getting into a new climate and new water, it is liable to sicken the cocks, and about the time you should get ready to fight them, the most of them would be off. That will happen every time you travel, unless the cocker is a good hand with birds. In shipping cocks this distance to show twenty-one, it is best to take along a supply of cocks, say, ten or twelve extra cocks; that would give you plenty to fall back on, providing the cocks were picked before shipping. There is no use traveling with inferior cocks. Better cut off their heads at home. You will make more money. Never travel with an inferior cock. When traveling by water be sure you keep them out of the draught, and have a supply of quinine with you in five grain pills or capsules, and as soon as any begins to have fever give him a pill. Always,

when traveling, feed soft food, no grain. Give plenty of green food. Be sure you examine your cocks on arrival, and see that they have no fever. Don't feed grain as soon as you arrive. Give a mash feed. That depends on how far you have come, and how near the fighting time. If you don't have two or three days' time, then you don't want to feed soft feed. If you only go about 100 miles, the travel won't hurt them much. Then give a little raw beef first, and a while after give grain. Don't haul too far in a wagon. Nothing will break a cock down quicker than hauling a long distance in a wagon. If you are compelled to haul in a wagon it is best to put them in sacks and then put straw in the bottom and lay them on that. That is better than hauling them in coops. It should be a spring wagon.

SHIPPING FOWL.

It is always best to ship fowl (stags, hens or pullets,) in separate coops unless they are very young. If they are pretty well grown and put together in a coop and shipped any distance, before they arrive at their destination they will turn on one another and ruin themselves. A fowl will not sit down while

the train is in motion and every motion of the train throws them against one another and being in the dark, they will soon turn on each other, and stags will do that that have never shown signs of fight before. I have had old hens shipped me (more than one in a coop) and when they arrived they were in a frightful condition. I have seen them with all the feathers and flesh eaten off from the head, down the neck and back to the tail. I had one lot of five stags and four pullets shipped to me, and when they arrived they were a sight. Those that were not already dead I had to kill. Could not use one of them and they were only shipped eighty miles. It is even dangerous to ship a hen and cock together.

Fowls, after being shipped, should not, on their arrival, be fed on grain of any kind, or corn. The first food should be a mixture of some soft food, for they are chuck full of fever, and a soft mash is an excellent thing for them. It will allay the fever and also open their bowels, and this often saves the fowl from getting sick. In shipping fowls always throw in the coops some greens of some kind—some cabbage cut fine, or apple, or lettuce. It will quench their thirst somewhat, and it prevents fever.

HACKING COCKS.

A cock hacking is not always a sign he is a dunghill. A great many game cocks hack after being brought in from their walk and put in a coop in a room among a lot of other cocks. There are various reasons for their hacking. A cock that has been running in the woods with the hens is very wild, and if he has to be run down to be caught, and then put in among a lot of other cocks, will hack very often. A cock running under another cock is liable to hack when put among a lot of other cocks. A cock that has had a walk at a place where they continually chase and throw sticks and stones at him, and then run down when you go to catch him, will be almost sure to hack when put among a lot of other cocks. A cock moulting will hack at times. A cock that has had a fine run and nothing to bother him will sometimes hack for no apparent reason, other than hearing the other cocks crow. A cock, when sick, will hack. I have had cocks hack, but on taking them out and showing them a cock, they would fight. Put them back in their coops and they would hack again, and would do

that as often as you took them out of the coop. I have had cocks hack and on taking them out and fighting them in the pit they won, and then hacked again. I noticed one strain in particular, of one man's raising. When brought in, they would hack, they generally won their first fight; after that, they would hack again. I had a cock hack after I had tied the gaffs on, and having had him some time, I came to the conclusion he was no use and held him down to the cock he was matched to fight, and after receiving a few cuts with the gaffs, he began to fight, and died game. I have seen some extra fine game cocks hack. I fought a cock in a main once that hacked before I took him out of the coop, but he won the fight, and then hacked again.

Such cocks are not always dunghills, and by taking them away from the other cocks and by putting a hen with them, they will get over it. In most cases it comes from running cocks down to catch them. Such cocks should be taken out of their coops every day two or three times, and gently stroked and carefully handled. Let them know you are not going to hurt them. Never run a cock down to catch him. Every time you go to his coop, he hacks, and if he don't hack in the coop, he does just as bad in the pit. He is

constantly watching the handler, and every move the handler makes he notices, and in trying to avoid the handler he often gets killed, and that will happen five times out of ten. Always go at night to take the cock off the roost, and catch him by the leg. Never catch by the wing or tail feathers. Cocks hacking after fighting are generally dunghills. It is not safe to breed from them.

WALKING COCKS.

In putting out cocks on walks, great care should be taken that there are no other cocks near at hand. In putting a cock on a walk, especially where there are other cocks, the chances are you will never get him back, for different reasons. First, although he may be the boss of the walk, as soon as he covers a hen, one of the others is almost sure to run up and hit him, and liable to cripple him, or knock an eye out of him. They will keep this up and get bolder all the time. Should he get under the weather a little they are not slow in finding it out. They would pitch into him and ruin him. If you get him back he would not be of much use. Never put more than one cock on a walk. Never put down a cock

where they haven't plenty of feed. Don't put down a cock where he is kept cooped up seven days in the week to keep him out of the garden. Coop-walked cocks are no use, only for the market. Never put down a cock where the folks about the house are continually throwing clubs or stones at him. Always see that they have plenty of water; running water is the best. Never put a cock down on a walk where there is nothing but rock and gravel to walk on. Never put down a cock where they have no hen house, or place of shelter, for the fowls. Roosting in trees freezes their toes off, and a toeless fowl is not worth much. A cock walked in the woods is the best walked cock. A side hill is good.

For fowls, it makes muscle. Stags should be taken taken up when they begin showing attention to the hens. In damp, sultry, rainy weather, the stags are liable to turn on the old cock and then fight among themselves. Never raise a cock in a coop. They are not fit for anything, not even to eat. Never take a cock off the yard and carry him to a neighbor's to have a cock fight with his own heels, and then put him back on the yard. Care should be taken with the cock's plumage. If you go to pick up a cock off his walk, it is best to go at night when

he is on the roost, and catch him by the leg. Never catch a fowl by the wing or tail, for should you pull out his wing or tail feathers he will be worthless for fighting purposes. A fighting cock must have good wing and tail feathers. If you have to catch the cock during the day, never run him down. That is the worst thing you can do to cove him. A majority of them hack after being run down. If they don't hack they might as well, for they will be so afraid of man that it will be hard to do anything with them. They will hang back in their coops and refuse to eat, and it will take a long while and a great deal of coaxing to bring him around again. If you must catch him while running on his walk, take a cock, generally a dunghill, cut his spurs off, tie a string to his leg, let him down, and as soon as they get to fighting, draw in the string somewhat until the cock is within your reach, then catch him by the leg. You can't hurt him by catching him by the leg.

FIGHTING STAGS.

Stags, when fought, are liable to run, unless they have had a run with the hens and have been boss of the walk. Stags that have been running under are liable to run when severely cut, no matter who bred them; therefore always allow the stag a walk before fighting, if only for a short while. A stag eight or ten months old that has been well walked ought not to run away. Where there are two cocks walked on one yard, say a grey and a red, should the red cock run under, he is liable to run when a grey cock is pitted against him and would not run from any other color. That frequently happens, especially when the cock has not had time to forget the grey cock. Game cocks do that quite often.

FAULTY STOCK.

All breeders, as a rule, should have as few faults in their stock as possible, because little faults in the old birds develop great faults in their progeny.

HOW TO BUILD A PIT.

In building a pit, about fourteen feet square is large enough, or twelve by fourteen feet, if you haven't room. The pit should be round on the inside. The best way to build one is to make it square, and then round the corners on the inside by padding. It makes it more durable. The cushion or padding should be put on the frame before the ground is put in. Stout muslin or canvas of any kind will do. Tack the canvas on the lower part of the frame for five or six feet, put your packing in, draw your canvas up and tack it on top of the frame. By packing a few feet at a time, you can run your arm under the canvas and smooth the packing as you go along. After you have your cushion fixed, put in your loam. Red loam is the best, about two inches deep, to cover the floor. Cover the top of the frame where you have tacked on the canvas with a strip. Lights should be in the center of the pit, not at the corners. Lamps with reflectors, throwing the light down in the center of the pit, are good, but lamps with reflectors hanging at the side of the pit are not good and are the cause of getting many cocks whipped that would otherwise have won.

NOTES.

Never keep your cocks in the dark during the day. Let them have sunlight and ventilation, but no draught.

A cockerel and stag are the same and when one year old are considered cocks.

Never feed bread in any shape while conditioning, only the first feed. That should be bread and milk. That will do as a physic.

Never feed scalded corn while conditioning, if you don't want sick fowls.

Never allow the droppings to accumulate in your cock-house.

Always feed as near as possible at the same time every day.

In feeding oats, always scald it.

Never condition cocks by starving the fat off of them or drugging them.

To cocks having fever, give quinine, five grains.

Never give stagnant water or soured, mouldy food.

When feeding corn, always feed old corn if it can be had, or old hominy.

Always feed the battered cocks boiled corn meal and milk, and a little fine chopped meat, until they get well.

Never put a cock cut out of feather, that has been fought, out in the cold.

Never run a cock down to catch him.

Never catch a cock by the tail or wing feathers.

Never throw stones or sticks at the fowls.

Always feed some green food to fowls, no matter whether cooped or running on a yard.

Never raise a cock in a coop. He is no good for fighting, not even good to eat.

Never keep your fowl in a wet place, or in the draft.

Never breed from faulty or rousy stock.

Never set a hen on a nest unless you have destroyed the vermin and greased her stern and underneath her wings with sweet oil and oil of sassafras.

Never put a fire in the cock house unless it is extremely cold, and then only enough to take off the extremely cold chill.

Always feed hot vegetable food, mixed with meal, during the cold weather, and have a warm stable, if you want eggs.

Never breed from stag and pullet, or use

the pullet eggs for breeding until ten months old. The older, the better.

Always make the nest for a setting hen of soil.

If you want to fatten your fowl, feed Indian corn meal and vegetables, with a spoonful of black pepper.

Always throw in the drinking water for fowl, a few rusty nails.

Never let the young chicks out in the dew in the morning. Wait until the sun has dried it up, for the dew will kill them.

Always have a grassy range for you fowls. If that can't be had, dig up the ground with a spade so they can get fresh soil to scratch in.

You can keep any amount of stags together by taking the hens away from them, and letting the old cock be with them. He will keep order.

Never walk a cock where he is cooped up seven days in the week to keep him out of the garden.

A hen is at her best when three years old.

A cock for fighting purposes fights fastest at two years old. After that he decreases in speed, and increases in strength and hardihood.

Fowls sometimes change their plumage. I have seen a red cock's feathers turn white, then from white to red.

A game cock can be made to hack, no matter who bred him.

A sick cock ought never to be fought. He is liable to run away.

A stag that is eight or ten months old that has been well walked ought not to run away.

Never breed from an inferior fighting cock. It don't cost any more to breed from a good one.

Mate your brood fowl about the first of February.

Always take the hen away after the cock has taken a dislike to her. She will never do any more good, and he is liable to hurt her.

Never allow a dunghill cock to have access to your hens at any time.

Never breed from a cock you know nothing about.

Never build your perches high, for the fowls bruise their feet in flying down.

Never feed a cock corn when he has fever, or any other kind of grain, for he can't digest it.

There is no such a thing as a right or left foot cock. That is a humbug.

Always feed green food when shipping fowl.

The safest way to ship fowl is to put them in separate coops.

Never put oil or grease of any kind on a cock's head or legs, unless he is sore.

Pedigree in a cock cuts no figure; looks well on paper for some people.

Color of plumage in a fighting cock cuts no figure. A white can fight as good as a black or red, or any other color.

Hennys are a distinct breed of fowl.

When looking for a first-class brood cock, never go to an exhibitor of game fowl, for he hasn't got them; he doesn't need them.

If you want a first-class game fowl go to the man that has them, the breeder who fights them for his money. He cannot afford to be without them.

When conditioning cocks always disinfect the coops with carbolic acid.

On the old fowls the lice settle on the stern and under the wings. On the chicks they settle on top of the head.

If your stags get age on them, watch them in wet or murky weather. They will turn on one another.

Whitewash your chicken house twice a year. It will pay you.

The best walked cock is the one that runs in the woods.

Always have a hen house. Fowls roosting in trees get their feet frozen. A toeless cock is no good to fight.

A dead cock can never win, at any stage, even if the other cock runs away.

Never breed from a cock some one has sent you as a present unless you know he is right. This is the cause of a great many disappointments.

Coops for conditioning cocks 20x20 inches are plenty large enough.

A handler should know the rules before entering the pit.

A successful handler must not get rattled; must have a mind of his own, and know how to keep his temper and handle fair.

A successful handler will let the spectators do the wrangling, and he do the thinking.

A gaff broken off during a fight cannot be replaced.

Give or take two ounces is ruleable. A blinker is entitled to four ounces more than a two-eyed cock. A stag is entitled to the same.

Mouth bets go in a cock pit, and those who refuse to pay them should be barred out for all time to come.

A breeder, to have good fighting cocks, must also have good hens.

A handler should always examine the gaffs on entering the pit. Sword blades and chisel points are foul, and are called slashers.

There is no secret or anything mysterious about putting on the gaffs. They will do the same amount of cutting, no matter who ties them on, although lots of people will try and make you believe otherwise. There is nothing in it. Try it and see.

Never fight cocks with their own spurs, and then bring them to the pit. Cheaper to kill them at home, as you will save the trouble of carrying them to the pit.

Always examine your eggs—those that you want to use for setting. After the seventh day, a fertile egg has a black spot in the center; an unfertile egg is clear.

Bantams are produced by breeding in-and-in.

Fine plumage shows breeding, but that don't prove gameness by any means.

In putting on the gaffs don't force them over the spurs. Put just enough packing

on the spurs so the gaff will go over without force.

In using force in putting on or taking off the heels, you are liable to pull off the horn of the spur.

Cocks that have been raised in the coop can not be conditioned. They are of no use.

If you have a savage biting cock, treat him gently. Put on gloves and take him out of his coop every day, two or three times, and stroke his neck gently. Let him bite your gloved hand. Don't jerk your hand away, but hold your hand perfectly still and let him bite until he gets tired; but don't tease him. He will get gentle in a few days.

Never trim the tail feathers while conditioning cocks. After the feathers are cut, they won't give when the fowl is turning in his coop, and it is painful to him. Never give a severely wounded cock to any one who does not understand how to take care of it. It is more humane to kill it.

When a cock is moulting he is liable to hack, even when no cock is near him, and if fought while moulting is liable to run away. They are very sore at that stage. Many good game cocks hack at times, but there is generally a reason for it.

When a handler takes the count and skips any number on purpose, he can not handle. If cautioned about it, and he repeats it, he forfeits the fight.

Never dose your cock with whisky before fighting him. Give him one swallow of water.

Whenever you see a handler feed bread and give his fowl whisky before the fight, put a few dollars on the other fellow's cock. It's a pretty safe place.

After you are matched to fight and weighed, don't let your opponent go into the cock house to heel. Make him heel in the pit, and if he don't, make him go to the scales again after being heeled; for if you don't, you are liable to hear something fall.

When one handler makes an attempt to handle, the other has a right to.

A dunghill cock put with good game hens will raise pretty good cocks. Vice versa will be no good.

A game cock running under another cock is liable to run away when fought against a cock of the same color, unless given time to forget him.

Don't handle your fowl too much. The more you handle them the worse they get.

If your fowl has a dizzy spell or apoplexy, bleed it, or dip in cold water.

Cocks raised in coops get dizzy and become dummies, especially if they are too much inbred.

If a fowl has a white scum over its eye, blow in powdered sugar through a goose-quill. It will cure it if not too far gone.

In some localities the rule specifies in a fight that if the handler of the fighting cock don't take the count, the other has a right to count. That forces a man at times to do a thing that is detrimental to him. That is wrong. They were never gotten up by a cocker. A cocker can never take the count if his cocks show no fight. He can call for three minutes, and breast them out, but when you are in Rome do as Romans do.

When a cock jumps out of a pit in a battle royal he must remain out, but if he is knocked out he can be put back again.

Lamps with reflectors at the sides or corners of the pit are liable to blind a cock. Reflectors should be above the pit, to throw the light down into the center.

The very first thing a breeder should do to cocks brought in from their walks is to grease them, to drive away the lice. If sweet oil and oil of sassafras are used, lice will not return on the fowls for a long while.

When you see your fowls droop, give them a spoonful of brandy or tincture of iron in water. They want a tonic.

A cock with both wings broken short off stands a better show to win in a fight than a cock with a broken leg.

In taking a fowl out of a coop, raise the door just enough to catch hold of the fowl. Always catch by the thigh and tip end of the wing and hold firmly. When you have a hold, bring him toward you, head first. When half way out, release the door and take hold of the fowl with both hands. There should be notches cut in the coop for the door to rest while taking a fowl out or in.

If you intend to fight at night, feed by artificial light.

In a battle royal, one man is appointed to draw the gaffs. When it gets down to the last two, they must be handled by two handlers. The same as in a regular battle, the dead cocks must be taken out of the pit.

Dry rattles in a cock can be cured by giving a spoonful of coal oil in the morning and a little lard with black pepper at night.

A cock with his toe nails frozen off is at a disadvantage and should have the advantage in weight.

A cock wounded with gaffs will get well

much sooner than one that has fought with his own spurs.

A cock in good condition will get well very soon after being cut. A cock not conditioned will take much longer to get well and may die from the same amount of cutting.

You can not cramp a cock by tying on the heels unless you use extra force, and then it will be hard to do. A cock, when distressed, will cramp, rub his knee joints and his toes vigorously. He will get over it.

RULES FOR THE PIT.

Rules are a custom and different rules for different localities. There are so many different rules published that it is hard to find out the proper ones. Cockers, when they go to fight cocks in a strange place, should acquaint themselves with the rules that prevail at that particular place, before the fight. The old New Orleans and Cincinnati rules, which I will publish, are the best to fight under. They are the common sense rules.

NEW ORLEANS AND CINCINNATI RULES.

RULE 1. All cocks weighing within two ounces of each other are matched, except

blinkers or stags, when four ounces shall be allowed for a blinker when pitted against a perfect cock, also the same to be given a stag when pitted against a perfect cock. A stag shall be considered an equal match for a blinker of the same weight. The shining hackle feathers must be cut off if required. All gaffs with round blades and points are fair. All others are unfair and must be taken off when required. Chisel points and sharp edges are unfair. Pitters can examine the gaffs before the fight and appoint umpires and referee.

RULE 2. The pitters shall let the cocks peck each other five or six times before they put them down. The cocks are to be placed fairly on their feet, and not pitched or thrown toward the opponent cock. When the fight has commenced, if a pitter acts contrary to the rules, he forfeits the fight. By-bets are decided in the same manner as the battle money. Any person who makes a bet on honor and don't pay is ruled out of the pit.

RULE 3. Cocks are to be pitted six feet apart. When they refuse to meet each other, time of one minute is called, at the expiration of which the cocks are to be handled. If they refuse again, time of one minute is called, and so on until the expira-

tion of the third minute, when the cocks are to be pitted breast to breast until the battle is ended. If one cock fights and the other does not, the pitter of the fighting cock takes the count and counts "ten" in an audible manner, when the cocks are to be handled, and again set down and counted as before. At the expiration of the third count, the cocks are to be placed breast to breast. When the pitter of the fighting cock counts "twenty" the fight is ended in his favor. If both cocks fight during the count it is broken and must be commenced over. If neither cock fights, a fresh cock is brought in and allowed to peck each cock. If one cock shows fight and the other does not, the fighting cock wins. If both fight or refuse to fight, it is a draw battle. A runaway cock does not show fight by pecking in the hand. If a blow is not struck it is no fight. A pitter is allowed thirty seconds to fix his cock's feathers and press his legs up. If he does not come down when called on the third time, he forfeits the fight. No refreshments to be given during the fight.

RULE 4. The pitter must handle his cock when hung in himself or the other cock; or otherwise, if one pitter stoops to handle, the other has a right to handle. If either

handler has occasion to put his hand on his opponent's cock, he must do so with his hand open, and it shall be unfair for him to close his hand on the cock. If one cock should be on his back and the other standing clear of him, the pitter of the standing one can call for the turning of the cock, and if the other pitter refuses to turn him, he shall have the privilege of doing so. The pitters must stand three feet from their cocks. They are also required to place them on their scores. They can give their cock a wing or turn him over when on his back; providing the cocks do not touch each other. If one cock dies in the pit, the living cock wins, though he shows no fight. If both cocks die during the count, the longest liver wins. No changing of cocks after the match is made, under penalty of forfeiture. If a doubt arises as to the cock, he must be weighed after being heeled; refusing to weigh forfeits the battle.

BANTAM GAMES.

The popular idea that Bantams originally descended from distinct species of fowls is entirely erroneous. Within a few years diminutive breeds of game fowls have sprung into existence, and have gained very great

favor among the fanciers. They are produced by breeding in-and-in game fowls, which diminishes the size. The hens as setters and mothers are unsurpassed, being active foragers. They will maintain themselves in fine order with very little food, and furnish a rare dainty for culinary purposes.

The Henney is not a freak of nature, but a distinct breed of fowls.

DIMINUTIVE EGGS. —The hens that lay such eggs are too old, past their prime, and the very small ones will not hatch. When young hens lay such eggs it is caused by high feeding, and the cure is, of course, the reverse. There is no chance of recovery in the old hens.

MOULTING FOWLS.

Fowls at the period of moulting are in a more delicate condition than at any other time of the year, and should receive extra care. The food may be varied with the addition of hempseed. A tonic will be found useful: one-half pound of sulphate of iron, and one ounce of sulphuric acid. Dissolve in two gallons of water, to be used by putting a teaspoonful in about a pint of water.

IMPORTING GAME FOWLS.

Imported game fowls are no better than our American game fowls. The fact that they are imported cuts no figure as to their qualities. They have as many dunghills in foreign countries as they have in America, and unless you are posted, or know some one in that part of the country where you intend to get your fowls from that is posted, you are as liable to get a dunghill as a game cock. There are as good game fowls in America as there are anywhere.

HIGH BRED FOWLS.

High bred fowls, with a good constitution, can resist disease much better than the common fowls.

Hens in a wild state only lay what eggs they can cover, and then incubate. They do this twice a year.

SICK FOWLS.

When a fowl is sick the feathers will hang loosely; when healthy their feathers adhere close to their bodies.

CRAMPS IN FOWLS.

Sometimes you will find one of your birds with its feet drawn up under it, and its legs and feet cold. Put the bird's legs in hot water. Let it stand in the water, and rub the legs vigorously; then rub dry. Rub the legs with alcohol. Give the fowl a teaspoonful of brandy and hot soft food. Repeat the hot water two or three times a day. Give bread and milk warm. Put the fowl in a warm place.

EXHIBITION FOWLS.

Those that you see on exhibition are generally a pretty poor sample of the game fowl. They are generally exhibited by amateurs and inferior breeders, and have no shape, and not much of anything but feathers that the real, genuine game cock has. The exhibitor of these fowls rarely goes to the cock-fights, and he is no judge of a game cock. A practical cocker or breeder can't afford to exhibit his fowls at these shows. In the first place there is no inducement. The amount of the prize or premium is not sufficient to pay for the

amount of chances he will take to exhibit his fowls among so many other fowls in close confinement. Disease would be liable to break out among them, and his fowls would be ruined. Besides, if he won a prize, it would not help him sell his fowls. But if any breeder of consequence would pick about two dozen nice hens from his flock and three fine, well-walked plumaged cocks, selecting three different colors, he would be sure to take the prize, for the regular exhibitor has but very few to select from and they are very inferior.

FEATHER EATING.

Feather eating is a vice. The learning is invariably accomplished when the fowls are confined in small rooms. Under such circumstances, if there is any mischief that can be invented, they will acquire it. A fowl in attacking a companion incidentally plucks a feather, and pleased with the taste, swallows it and seeks another. Now, in close quarters, the younger of the flock can readily be cornered by their superiors. Hence, the second requisite is gained. Hens are observing, and are especially on the watch with jealous greediness when they

notice one of their fellows eating something. When one sets the example they all imitate, and in a few days they become a set of cannibals, eating each other alive. They will not alone eat the feathers, but skin and flesh also. Feathers not wholly matured contain more or less blood in the quills, and form very choice morsels, which will be greedily plucked and devoured by the whole flock, provided first, that they learn how, and afterwards, that they have the opportunity. Fresh meat will not stop them. A flock of fowls that have once acquired that habit had better be killed at once, unless the season of the year permits and the premises are such that the fowls can be given a wide range, so they may disperse and avoid each other. In cold weather, and during a storm, when your fowls naturally huddle together, keep them scratching and picking legitimately. Throw among them some dry leaves, or hay leaves, or put in the pen a bundle of dry fodder, and after they strip the leaves off, put in a fresh lot. Gather the leaves in autumn and keep them dry until you want to scatter them in your hen house in cold weather. Scatter small grain among the leaves.

SWELL-HEAD AND ROUP.

This disease makes its appearance when least expected. There is no way to prevent it from breaking out among your cocks. You may go out of your cock house at night and in the morning, when you go into the stable, you will find some of the best cocks in the lot afflicted with it. It usually breaks out when the cocks are confined. It is not contagious but you cannot find one cocker in a hundred who does not think so. I have had as high as a dozen of swell-head birds on hand at one time and put them to themselves, and, not having room for some cocks that I did not care about, would put them in the same coops with the swell-head birds and none would take it. I have done this all through the winter and I have never seen a cock that I thought caught it by being confined in the same coops. Cocks that are shipped from a distance are more subject to it than any others, or cocks fed too much corn will get it very hard. Cocks shipped from a distance are put in the baggage car, where it is warm; then, being on the road a couple of days, when they arrive at their destination they are left out in the

cold for a while until they are chilled through. You take these cocks (a great many do) and the first feed you give them on their arrival is corn. That is the worst feed you can give them. In a few days they will break out in swell-head. Changing the cocks from the warm baggage car to the sudden cold gives them a chill, and probably you have to change cars again, and after chilling them you put them into the warm baggage car again. A few days after you get your birds home, they break out with the swell-head. Some cocks have the dry swell-head that does not run at the nostrils. Others have the roup with it. When the cock shows signs of roup, you want to take him away from the rest. Do not put a cock in his coop unless you have taken his bedding and his droppings out and disinfected his coop with carbolic acid. It is very seldom that a cock has the swell-head and does not have the roup with it, and while I say that swell-head alone is not contagious, it is not necessary for a man to run any risk if he has room to put him elsewhere. I have often had cocks with the swell-head, both eyes closed, but no discharge at the nostrils. I take them out and put them in a warm place and in a very short time the discharge begins to flow. This is the worst

sickness the cocker has to deal with and a great many cocks are ruined by not receiving the proper treatment. A great many cockers have sick cocks on hand and don't know what to do with them, and with their method of treating them they rarely ever get well, and when he does get well the season is over or he is in such a shape that he never will be any more good for that season. It is the cocker's fault. His way of feeding is at fault. The cock may be bound up and don't get proper exercise; has no ventilation, is constantly fed one thing, has impure water—all these have a tendency to cripple the cock's health. Feeding brings on the swell-head as much and more than anything else. I have had a great number of cocks in my time, and through the winter, when the fighting was in full operation, I always had from one to twenty sick and battered cocks on hand, in different stages of sickness, and cocks from five or ten men's raising; different blood in every two or three cocks. There I had the opportunity to see the effects of different remedies for swell-head and other sickness. If you feed properly and give ventilation, no draught, no stagnant water and sunlight, you won't have so many sick cocks. Diarrhea comes from impure water and feeding too carelessly. The first signs

of swell-head is a fever, a very hot head, hot legs and a little spit in the eye. If you put him back in the coop and don't doctor him, in three or four hours his head will be swelled so he can't see. "Well," you will say, "I will put him back into the coop and bye and bye I will attend to him." That will take another hour or two and by that time the cock is stone blind and burning up with a fever. It is five times as much trouble to cure him at that stage as it was when first discovered that he was sick. There are a great many different ways of curing the swell-head, but to cure it in a few days, so you can use the cock that season, is what you want. I never had a cock to die on me from the swell-head, except one, and the reason he died was that I had him in a damp cellar and did not give him the proper treatment. In the first place, put your cocks in a dry place, where there is sunlight and ventilation. Never keep your cocks in the dark nor in a draught. Change their bedding every day, take out the droppings and examine them. If the droppings are hard, colored greenish or gray, with a white tip, your fowls are well, but if the droppings are soft and watery, dark or green color, you want to change his food and watch him. If he shows signs of

fever, give him five grains of quinine in a pill or capsule. In about ten hours, if he still has fever, give him another; it won't hurt him. Stop feeding him grain at once and feed him chopped meat—not too much. This will strengthen him, as well as open his bowels, and he won't lose any strength. If he won't eat it, put it down his throat—not too much at a time. By giving him the quinine pills, you break the fever. By breaking the fever you don't always prevent him from getting the swell-head, but in some cases, after the fever is broken, swell-head won't develop. Should the cock get the swell-head, it is much easier cured than if you had not broken the fever. After that is broken, you have to go to work to reduce the swelling. If he has roup also, take a syringe and inject a solution of chlorinated soda (diluted) into the nostrils. Use hot salt water to bathe the head. Take a good sized sponge and apply the hot water freely, morning and night. Carbolic acid, diluted in water, not too strong, will also do to syringe with. This is the best remedy that I have found. I have not seen one I could not cure in ten days. A cock with swell-head cannot see to eat, therefore you have to feed and water him by hand. Use no grain while he is sick. Don't give him

anything but chopped meat. Feed him by hand. Take him under your left arm, hold him firmly with your elbow, open his beak with your left hand and put the beef in his mouth with your right. Don't put the food squarely in his mouth. A cock in that condition has a very sore throat. In feeding him don't give him too much at once. Put the food alongside his jaw and press it back with your finger. He will swallow it much easier than if put squarely in his mouth. Do not press back too far. If you follow this treatment, you will find, when the swell-head has left him, that he is almost as strong as when he took sick. If he falls away too much, it is generally the fault of the cocker. After the fever has left them, they regain their appetite, but can't see to eat until the swelling is gone.

If the fowl has no appetite when you first discover the fever, don't feed him any more that day. The appetite leaves the fowl as soon as the fever comes on, but returns as soon as the fever is broken. What he eats while he has fever he will not digest, and if you don't examine his craw you will be liable to give him the hard-crop, or cause indigestion, after the fever has left. It is best to feed him very little, if any, from the morning after you have discovered the

fever until the evening after you have broken it; then you can give him a feed of meat, but not too much. By the following morning, if he has not taken the swell-head, he will be ready to eat anything you give him. This is a most troublesome disease, and is sure to break out where there are a large number of fowls confined. I have seen the swell-head break out among geese; have seen eighty geese cooped up, and in two weeks, twenty-one of them had the swell-head. No fowls are safe from the disease where there are a large number of them confined together. There is no positive remedy for it, nor positive preventative, but with proper care, and watching your fowls closely and dieting them properly, you can prevent it some time from breaking out among your fowls all winter, but no one has a certainty by any means.

A cock having the swell-head should not be fought when in that condition. He can not see, even if the swelling has just begun to show itself and can be only slightly noticed, and if you do fight him in such a state, it is almost certain that he will get whipped. Cocks, when nearly well of the swell-head, ought to be thrown out with the hens for a week or ten days; providing, however, he has not been trimmed out of feathers; but, if he has been cut out

of feathers and you throw him out in the cold, it will do him more harm than good. There are many remedies for swell-head, but all are not good. Some use fish brine and others turpentine and loaf sugar. They saturate the sugar with turpentine and put it down his throat, which it dries up, but it ruins the cock. Another prescription is to take a pint of bay rum, add three drops of carbolic acid and about ten cents worth of perfume, and bathe the head with it. There are a number of prescriptions, but they will not perfect a cure. Nothing in the world will heal it quicker than to first break the fever with quinine; that will do it sure, and then proceed to take the swelling out of the bird with hot salt water. If you can find anything that will take the swelling out faster than hot water without injury to the bird, then use it. But I do not think you will find it. Cocks that come from a long distance take it very hard when they are not properly fed. They are not used to the climate, and, being full of fever and worn out with their ride, on arrival, such cocks should be given bread and milk and fed on soft and green food for several days until the fever has been driven out of them, and then not disturbed for several days.

In-bred cocks, after coming a distance and

coming into a new climate, take it very quick. They have not got the constitution to withstand these drawbacks. After getting over the swell-head, if it could be so arranged, put the cock out in the yard a couple of hours a day while the sun is out, or put him in ground coops built out in the yard. They ought to be pretty good size. A cock, after having a pretty severe case of swell-head, is not a good cock to condition immediately after getting well. You must give him a chance to recuperate, for if you fight him, no matter how well he is conditioned, you will find he will weaken in the fight when he most needs his strength. You will find, in treating fowls for ailments, the more simple they are, the more beneficial. Drugs are a bad thing for fowls. I never give drugs but quinine to break the fever, unless it is a very severe case of sickness. I never have any sick birds, excepting those with swell-head or roup, and they generally have that before I get them. I always, during the winter, have a large number of cocks on hand, hardly ever below twenty-five, up to seventy-five. I have had as high as eighty-one cooped—all fighting cocks brought in for that purpose and not a sick one in the lot. I never saw a case of diarrhea or cholera among my fowls, and

all the other ailments that fowls are heir to. All this sickness is caused by improper feeding, dirty, foul straw lying in your stable that probably has laid there until it has rotted, impure water that has stood in the bucket for two or three days, droppings of the fowls never taken out, fowls allowed to stand in their droppings until their feet are almost hidden, no exercise, feeding bread soaked in different ways, feeding tainted meat mixed with meal, probably soured. Feeding cocks when their crops are full causes indigestion, and it will turn into diarrhea. All this wants to be avoided. A cocker must study his fowls, examine their droppings and let them feed in different ways, and then examine their droppings and that will teach him. Your fowls must be kept in order by feeding, not with drugs. You must judge a fowl's health according to his droppings. If a fowl is well, his droppings will be hard, a greyish or green color, with a white tip. If he is sick you will find a difference in his droppings. The less you fool with your birds the better it will be for them; they don't want too much handling.

COLDS.

Colds are generally caught by fowls kept in damp and ill-ventilated places. Birds left in the draught, if not taken care of, will take the roup. The first sign is sneezing and running at the nose. Examine the fowl's legs; if hot and feverish give a five grain quinine pill, and take away from the rest; don't feed any grain until you are sure the fowl is all right again. If the fever does not leave in about seven or eight hours give another pill, and if the fever is broken the chances are the fowl will be itself in a day or two. Here lies the secret in saving your fowl from getting sick—by tending to them as soon as you discover they are ailing. If the fowl has fever, it is sick, and if the fever is not broken then, it will break out into something more serious. After the fever is broken your fowls are easily cured by dieting them. Quinine is the only thing that will break the fever and it is a harmless drug to the fowl. Every handler of fowls ought to have quinine on hand, so in case he should go into his stable at night, and discover a fowl with fever, he could then and there give it quinine and by morning it would be well, where

if he put it off until morning because he did not have quinine and did not want to go to the drug store that night, the fowl would be in such a condition that it would take a long while to get well. Most all fowls take fever when they are sick and that once broken there is not much danger of losing the fowls. In giving quinine when fowls have a fever you often arrest a disease in its infancy, where otherwise, if left alone, a dangerous and contagious disease might develop and not be cured.

CHILLED EGGS.

Eggs that are left exposed during the early part of incubation are quickly chilled and spoiled, but after the sixteenth day they are not so easily spoiled or chilled, although the hen may be absent from the nest for twenty-four hours. That applies to spring and summer only. If the eggs are very cold and have long been chilled, put them in warm water, let them remain there until they are quite warm, then wipe them dry and put them back under the hen. The chances are, if they have been impregnated, they will hatch, if not too much chilled.

The supposed number of eggs a hen can lay the—

First year after birth.....	16 to 20
Second “ “ “	100 “ 120
Third “ “ “	120 “ 135
Fourth “ “ “	100 “ 115
Fifth “ “ “	60 “ 80
Sixth “ “ “	50 “ 60
Seventh “ “ “	35 “ 40
Eighth “ “ “	15 “ 20
Ninth “ “ “	1 “ 10

KEEPING EGGS FRESH.

It is not good policy to keep eggs for setting longer than fourteen days. They will keep well by getting them from the nest as soon as laid, and putting them in bran, small end up. Another way: Keep them on a shelf, small end up, in a room where the temperature is about fifty degrees all the year around. Another way is, get them from the nest as soon as laid and wrap them in paper and then pack them in a box and put them in a warm cellar.

FERTILE EGGS.

The eggs for hatching should be tested on the seventh or eighth day. At seven days a fertile egg will have a black spot in the center; if the egg is cloudy-looking it is fertile, if perfectly clear unfertile. The best method of testing is to buy an egg tester; they are sold very cheap and are more certain. Clear eggs which, after four days of incubation, show no signs of fertility, no veins, the yolk can be seen floating with every move, must be taken out of the nest and replaced with other eggs. They are good for cooking purposes.

EGG TESTER.

A great deal of disappointment would often be avoided if the breeders would use the egg tester. By the aid of this instrument you can detect at an early period, in the time of hatching, whether or not an egg is fertile and then substitute another for it.

TURNING EGGS.

It is not necessary to turn the eggs before or after the hen begins to hatch. The contents are movable, and will remain so until they have been brooded on by the hen one week, when the egg becomes attached to the membraneous lining of the shell; then the time for turning has arrived, and this the hen does herself.

FLOOR IN HEN HOUSE.

If you do not have floors in your chicken house the ground will get so saturated with the droppings of your fowls, it will become unhealthy and liable to breed a contagious disease. The stable must be kept clean.

ASAFCETIDA FOR RUBBING FOWLS' HEADS.

Put enough asafoetida in pure vinegar to turn the vinegar white. Then take a

sponge and bathe their heads and mouths with it and put back in the coop. It turns their heads dark and then makes them bright red. It makes their heads smoke. Don't be too long in using this, as they will struggle violently to get away, but soon recover. It freshens them up and it is a great preventative of disease. Use about twice a week.

DISEASES OF FOWLS AND THEIR CURE.

CURE FOR DRY RATTLES.

Give a spoonful of coal oil in the morning and at night give some lard and black pepper.

GAPE WORM.

The malady is very easily recognized; that gasping for breath is a characteristic symptom. On examining the windpipe a number of small red worms will be found from half an inch to three-quarters in length. This is caused like most other diseases, by carelessness. Put camphor or lime in water; if that don't stop it, take a tail feather and strip it of its feathers till about one inch from the end and put it down the chicken's throat and turn it quickly and draw it out. The worms will stick to the feather. Another cure: Pinch the windpipe or slightly roll it between your fingers. Be careful not to choke the bird. Young fowls are subject to it, the old ones rarely get it.

DIARRHEA.

Give a few drops of laudanum. Feed boiled rice and powdered chalk. Give a pill

of rhubarb and chalk, five grains; cayenne pepper, three grains, and a few drops of carbolic acid in water. Feed green food.

CANKER IN THE MOUTH.

Burn with nitrate of silver. Alum water is also good. Use feather. Fine salt, well rubbed on, is also good.

TRIMMING COMBS.

If the comb bleeds too much, use fine salt or powdered alum, or cobweb, or put a soft feather on the comb.

GIDDINESS.

This is caused by excessive feeding and no exercise, and also from in-breeding. Cocks bred-in too much are more subject to it than any other fowl. A bred-in fowl cannot stand cooping, and when put into coops when stags and kept there, they seem to become dizzy. They will reel like a drunken man, and seem to lose their sight; they will run around in a circle. They cannot be cured. A game fowl is too spirited, and confinement is fatal to its health.

SCURFY FEET.

Mix lard and sulphur; dip the fowl's feet in the mixture. Have it warm, and as it cools dip them again until thoroughly soaked, and then let them run. Repeat, if necessary.

ANOTHER REMEDY.—Wash the feet in hot soap water, and then rub with sweet oil.

Dipping the feet in kerosene oil is also good.

CHICKEN POX.

Wash the head with Castile soap and warm water, and then follow it with a thorough application of vinegar or chloride of potassium. It is contagious, but not dangerous. Separate the sick from the well fowls.

SWELLED CROP.

Oftentimes a fowl has a swelled crop, which feels soft and watery. Catch him by the legs, let his head hang down, and work his crop with your fingers and let the water run out; keep the food away from him for twenty-four hours, and then feed soft food sparingly. If the water will not run out of his mouth, then stick a knife into his crop and let the water out. It will heal up in a couple of days.

INDIGESTION.

Indigestion is caused by too much soft food. When your fowls become in that condition, feed grain (whole) and gritty matter of different kinds, small gravel, pounded oyster shells and fine bones. Discard the soft food entirely for some little time. If this does not cure, give powdered rhubarb

(five grains a day). A calomel purge may precede this treatment; sometimes the liver is at fault.

LOSS OF FEATHERS.

This shows debility in a fowl, and is caused by improper feeding. If your fowls are in that condition, you want to improve their food, and give them clean water and a warm stable.

PIP.

Pip in young chickens is easily cured. Catch the fowl and draw out its tongue; you will find a white, horny skin growing under the tongue. Take a needle, or your finger-nails, and loosen the horny substance, beginning at the root of the tongue, and when loose enough to catch with finger-nails, then pull forward, and you can pull it off of the whole bottom of the tongue easily; then give a little lard and pepper.

DYSENTERY.

Dysentery is an inflammation of the large intestines, and is characterized by bloody passages. It may occur with or without diarrhea, and sometimes exists in epidemic form, when it is rapidly fatal. Ordinary dysentery, however, is also considered a serious disease. The treatment is the same as for diarrhea, with the addition of opium

or laudanum in all cases. Carbolic acid in water is also useful. Separate the sick from the well, and do not let the well ones come in contact with the droppings of the sick.

CURING HATCHING HENS.

Never duck a hen in water nor make her stand in water to make her quit hatching. It is cruel, and does no good. The best way is to destroy the nest, and let her be for a day or two. If that don't cure her, put a cock with her for a couple of days.

ROUP.

Use a solution of chlorinated soda, or carbolic acid, diluted. Use syringe. The proper syringe for this purpose is sold at the drug stores and used for toothache. The tube is curved at the small end. Inject into the nostrils and bathe head and eyes with hot salt water. Give a pinch of copperas.

CHOLERA.

Caused by bad feeding and keeping the fowl on swampy soil. Symptoms: The fowl droops, is weak, the feathers present a ruffled appearance; diarrhea, at first very light, increases, green in color; the fowl refuses to eat. The disease spreads very rapidly. Death is sure to follow, if not checked. Use rhubarb, five grains; cayenne pepper,

two grains; laudanum, ten drops, twice a day. Give a teaspoonful of brandy between doses. Give a few drops of carbolic acid in water. Feed boiled rice and powdered chalk.

CROP-BOUND.

This is caused by improper feeding and lack of gritty matter as food. Pour sweet oil down his throat, a tablespoonful, and in a little while work the crop with your fingers, as if to soften it. In a while after, pour some hot water down his throat, not so hot as to scald, and work the contents with your finger. Don't feed anything that day. If the crop is empty next day, throw him out and let him run, but feed very little. If he is too far gone, cut his crop open, oil your finger, trim the nail and take out the contents of the crop. Sew up the crop first and the skin next, with silk thread or horse hair. Feed soft feed, sparingly, for a few days.

FROZEN COMBS.

Rub the afflicted parts every morning with two parts distilled glycerine and one part turpentine; at noon apply sweet oil and rose-water; at night repeat the morning dose. In a few days no trace of it will be left.

CHICKEN LICE.

Nothing is more annoying to fowls than this pest, and in setting a hen be careful that the nest and hen are free from them. For the hen house or nest, sprinkle well with a solution of potash, or with kerosene, or apply a good coat of whitewash. Upon the body, trim the feathers from the stern, and grease with sweet oil and enough oil of sassafras to flavor the oil; also grease under the wings. Young chicks should be greased on top of the head, as that is where the lice are on young chicks. Brine of tobacco is also good to sprinkle the hen house and nest with. Air slacked lime and sulphur used freely are also good.

SWELLED FEET OR CORNS.

Corns and big lumps on the feet bottoms come largely from fowls having to run over gravel or stone. They start from bruises, and after once started it develops very soon. It is also caused by having perches or roosts too high. A fowl flies down off the roost, comes in contact with the gravel or stone, and in a short time a large lump or corn appears, and if not taken care of the fowl will soon become useless. Large fowls especially are liable to injury in this way. To cure this, take a piece of lemon and tie it

on the corn or lump at night; repeat in the morning. On the third day put the foot in hot water, and you can take the corn out. If it is not a corn, but only a lump, lance it, and then tie on vaselene with a linen cloth until well. During this treatment keep the fowl in a small coop and on soft straw.

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